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OFFICIAL PROGRAM

"Cavalcade of a Century"

1853-1953

presented by

Montgomery County Centennial Corp.

August 26-29
8 p. m.

Red Oak, Iowa
Legion Park

A Mammoth Historical Pageant-Spectacle staged and directed by Donald F. Perry for the John B. Rogers Producing Co., Fostoria, Ohio.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF
FORT WAYNE AND ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

The Origin of Montgomery Co.

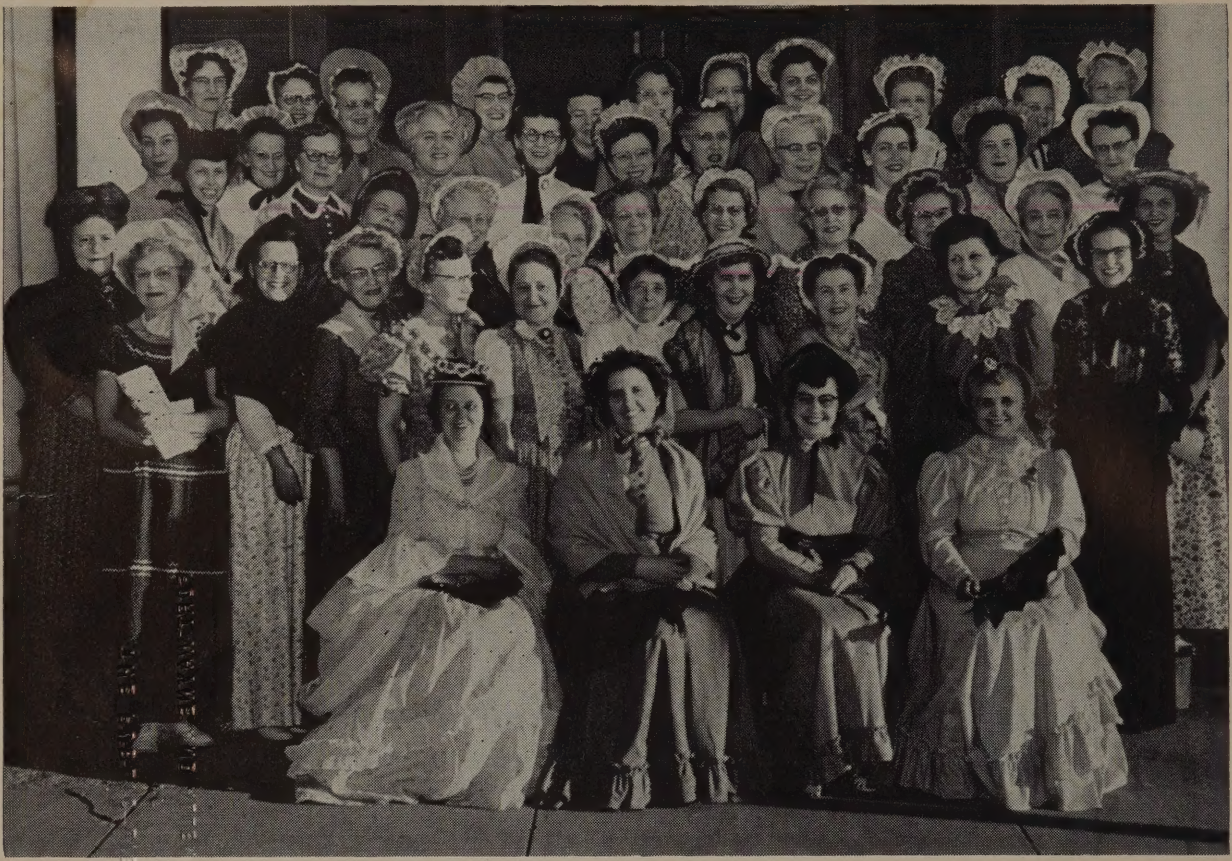
Iowa was admitted to the Union in 1846, and it was not until four years later that steps were taken for the organization of the southwestern counties. A bill was passed by the Legislature of 1850 organizing several counties in Southern Iowa, and a survey of the present bounds of our county was ordered, but at this time there were not over half a dozen families within it. The next legislative act referring to the county was approved January 12, 1853, when it was included with Adams county for revenue and judicial purposes, and the population at this time probably did not include over fifty or seventy-five people.

The first appearance of the name of the county was in the act authorizing its organization, an it is not positively known at whose suggestion the name of Montgomery was adopted. It is known, however, that it was given in honor of the distinguished young patriot who lost his life in the early years of the Revolutionary War, while leading a forlorn expedition against the British in Canada.

An interesting fact connected with General Montgomery, and this county which bears his name is that three of his direct lineal descendants have been well known residents of this county—Mrs. Smith McPherson, Mrs. Ella B. Young and Mrs. A. C. Hinchman, all of whom resided in Red Oak.

Published at Red Oak, Iowa
August, 1953

Compiled by Business and Professional Women's Club, Red Oak



Business and Professional Women's Club

Front row, left to right: Bertha Evans, Phyllis Stebbins, Ethel Honeyman, Ruth Coombs. Second row: Geraldine Long, Darleen Luppold, Doris Yokel, Ruth Davis, Louise Buehler, Alice Peterson, Estella Priest, Martha Pierson, Anna Lomas, Grace Blue, Miriam Larson. Third row: Clara Larson, Minnie Kidwell, Floss Combs, Myrle Elwood, Jesse Lyle, Leonore Ostrom, Ruth Miller, Mabel Johnson, Rae Dandom, Frances Peterson. Fourth row: Dorothy Shoemaker, Mabelle Barnes, Grace Brown, Nelle Medhurst, Beryl Geopforth, Marie Freed, Eva Meyer, Ellen Swanson, Betty Pierson, Thelma Means, Myrtle Calhoun. Fifth row: Tora Peck, Marian Sargent, Hazel Lusk, Ella Rickelton, Grace Butler, June Johnson, Elizabeth Nelson, Marjorie Martin, Grace Lathen, Stella Youngberg, Julia Swanson.

Those absent: Bernadine Pilkington, Carmelita Cozad, Mary Anderson, Norma Reyner, Thelma Young, Virginia Nelson, Kathryn Smith, Dorothy Houghton, Helen Altaffer, Mildred Airy, Gertrude Buehler, Zoe Davis, Helen Housman, Edith Johnson, Marian Lee, Grace Robinson, Millie Schmidt, Catherine Swanson, Kathryn Austin and Ruth McCray.

"Our Thanks to You"

As an organization begins to undertake the preparation of a historical program book for a centennial celebration and to fittingly record the deeds of those who had a part in the founding and development of Montgomery County, nothing is more important than the cooperation of all its members in accepting certain responsibilities. Of almost equal importance is the willingness of friends to lend assistance in giving information and photographs.

When the book is published and distributed the two little words "Thank You" sound inadequate.

However, we take this means of sincerely expressing our appreciation to the following: the members of the Red Oak Business and Professional Women's Club, who so loyally served on the committees, and our friends whose advertising made possible this publication; to all these we extend our thanks.

The club is particularly indebted to Mark Bass, C. I. Miller, Mrs. Clark Givan, and Mrs. Leona Marsden, who gave much time in the preparation and procuring of authentic information used in our brief history.

Acknowledgment should also be given to the following publications, from which much historical data has been gleaned: Iowa Atlas of 1875; History of Montgomery County, Iowa, published by Des Moines, Iowa Historical & Biographical Co., 1881; A History of Montgomery County, by W. W. Merritt, Sr.; Inventory of the County Archives of Iowa, No. 69, Montgomery County, prepared by The Iowa Historical Records Survey, December, 1941, Rev. Leonard Smith's Story of Bengt Halland and Halland Settlement; The Red Oak Independent published in 1894, the collections of the late Clifford Powell, and the files of The Red Oak Express.

Hours have been spent in writing, collecting and editing the copy that has gone into this production. The history of many townships has been compiled by a representative member of that community. No profit has been derived from this publication.

Remembering all this the Business and Professional Women's Club present this book to tell something of the past and present of Montgomery County, and let you imagine its future.

Thank You,
Red Oak Business and Professional Women's Club
Phyllis Stebbins, President

Smoky Hill — 7-1-90

1152179

The officers of the Montgomery County Centennial Corporation wish to extend a hearty welcome to all who have come to observe this important occasion.

May we express heartfelt appreciation to every person, group, and organization who has given so generously of their time, effort, and ingenuity that the 100th Anniversary of our beloved County might be so fittingly celebrated.

To name each deserving person is an impossibility, but each will have the satisfaction of realizing that a measure of the success is his. Only through many people working together unselfishly and in harmony could such a glorious celebration be accomplished. Such has been the reason not only for an enjoyable Centennial but also the gracious and abundant living in Montgomery County down through the years.

Sincerely yours,
Montgomery Co. Centennial Corp.
Sherrell Watson
Secretary-Treasurer

Montgomery County Centennial Corp. Committees

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Co-chairmen: John Williams, John Boeye, Harry Connor.

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Celebration Ball Committee:

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Carder, co-chmn.

Special Days Committee:

A. B. Tobias, chmn.

SUNDAY, Religious Day:

Ministerial Association, Rev. Asa Popp, chmn.

MONDAY, Merchants' Hospitality Day:

TUESDAY, Industrial Progress Day:

George Harshaw, chmn.

WEDNESDAY, Young America Day:

Ralph Herron, Dale Springer, Charles Krumme, co-chmn.

THURSDAY, Ladies' Day:

FRIDAY, Old Timers' Day:

Jack Richards, chmn.

SATURDAY, American Heritage:

Ralph Peterson, chmn.

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Glimpses of Douglas Township

Aaron and Nancy Patterson, pictured above, who came to Douglas Twp. by covered wagon in 1854.

Douglas Township is the northeast corner of the vast prairie land of Montgomery County, Iowa, through which flows the West Nodaway River. Here the pioneer found water, here he found timberland for his cabin, here were plum thickets where his stock could find shelter from the winter blizzards, here were wild fruits and nuts in abundance, here was prairie grass waving as far out as the eye could see, and wild flowers to satisfy the heart's longing for beauty. By March 1, 1853 cattle could be seen coming over the brow of the hill with a man on horseback driving them, then the top of a covered wagon coming slowly into full view with a woman driving the team of horses. On they went zigzagging to avoid the brush, breaking the first crooked trail in the territory now known as Douglas Township, Montgomery County, Iowa, and came into camp under the big elm trees on the banks of Sixteen Mile Creek, now rightly named West Nodaway River.

Wm. and Ann Stipe and their three daughters were among the first to settle in Montgomery County. Wm Stipe filed on land on both the north and south sides of the West Nodaway River. He established his homestead on the south side. The land purchased from the government cost him $1.25 per acre.

Digging into the records we find that the first deed in Montgomery County conveying land was recorded in April 1854, Wm. and Ann Stipe to Allen S. Donoho.

The first marriage license was issued to Samuel McNeeley and Miss Martha Elizabeth Donoho, January 20, 1855. Miss Donoho was a daughter of Allan Donoho.

In March 1855 the first Methodist Church in Montgomery county was organized, and at that time the circuit took in all of Montgomery County and all of Cass, except a small strip along the east side. There were four preaching places —Milford (now Grant), Edna Grove (now Reno), Newland Grove and Lewis.

J. W. Patterson, a resident of Douglas Township, was the first Montgomery County treasurer. It is believed that Mr. Hannaway was elected but did not serve, and Mr. Patterson was appointed October 14, 1853. He was the first Worshipful Master of Villisca and Red Oak Masonic Lodge.

O. S. Donoho, son of Thomas Donoho, was the first white male child born in Douglas Township September 28, 1855, and Sarah Patterson the first white female, October 4, 1855.

Wm. T. Reid, a local preacher, his wife Elizabeth, and four children, Catherine, Elizabeth, William and Thomas came in May 1856.

"Uncle Billie" known by that endearing name from the first, settled near a small creek (now the John Yeske farm). He preached for the Milford class when the circuit rider could not reach there because of swollen streams or blizzards. He was the first County Superintendent of Schools in Montgomery County.

The first log school house was built in 1855 by Wm. Stipe on the site where the Carl Tidgren residence is now located, but it seems that no records were kept earlier than 1865.

Samuel M. Smith came in 1856. He operated a saw mill and built and operated the Milford Mill which supplied its products to many distant points by wagon.

Milford (now Grant) was laid out in 1858 and the plat was purchased by S. M. Smith in 1859. The first frame house was built in 1857 by Thomas Donoho.

Incidents in Early History of Douglas

In the spring of 1879 Wallace McCullough killed himself by cutting an artery in his arm. He went hunting one day, and was found next morning leaning over the manger in the stable, where he had bled to death.

Mr. F. Bean has a fine, healthy, well-formed calf, except that it has only three legs. It seems to get along as well as the rest. All right; now let Montgomery County have the honor of starting a new breed of cattle- a three-legged breed. It is a good invention.

M. E. Church, Grant, Iowa.

35 Happy Years in This Community

From a meager start back in 1902, the J. C. Penney Co. has grown to be one of the major business institutions in the country today.

. . . as the company itself has gained a nationwide buyer's acceptance, the Penney store in Red Oak has become an established center for shoppers in this area since its opening in 1918.

. . . The sincere endeavor of of each employee is to serve you in the splendid fashion you so richly deserve . . . that is and has been the settled policy of this firm for 35 years.

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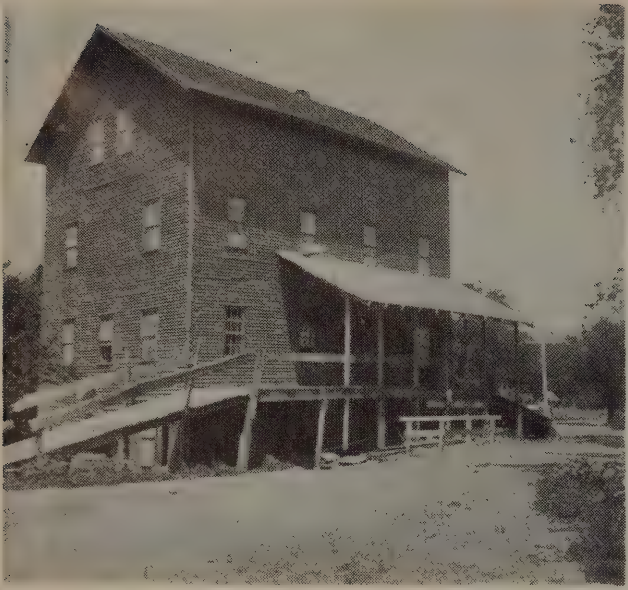
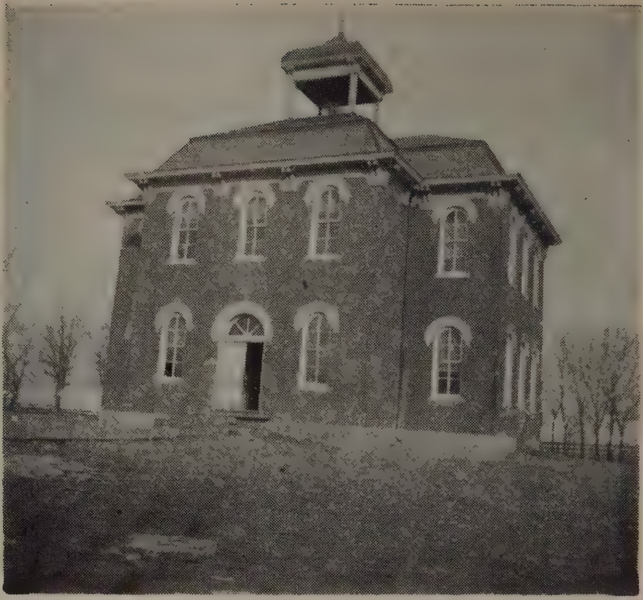
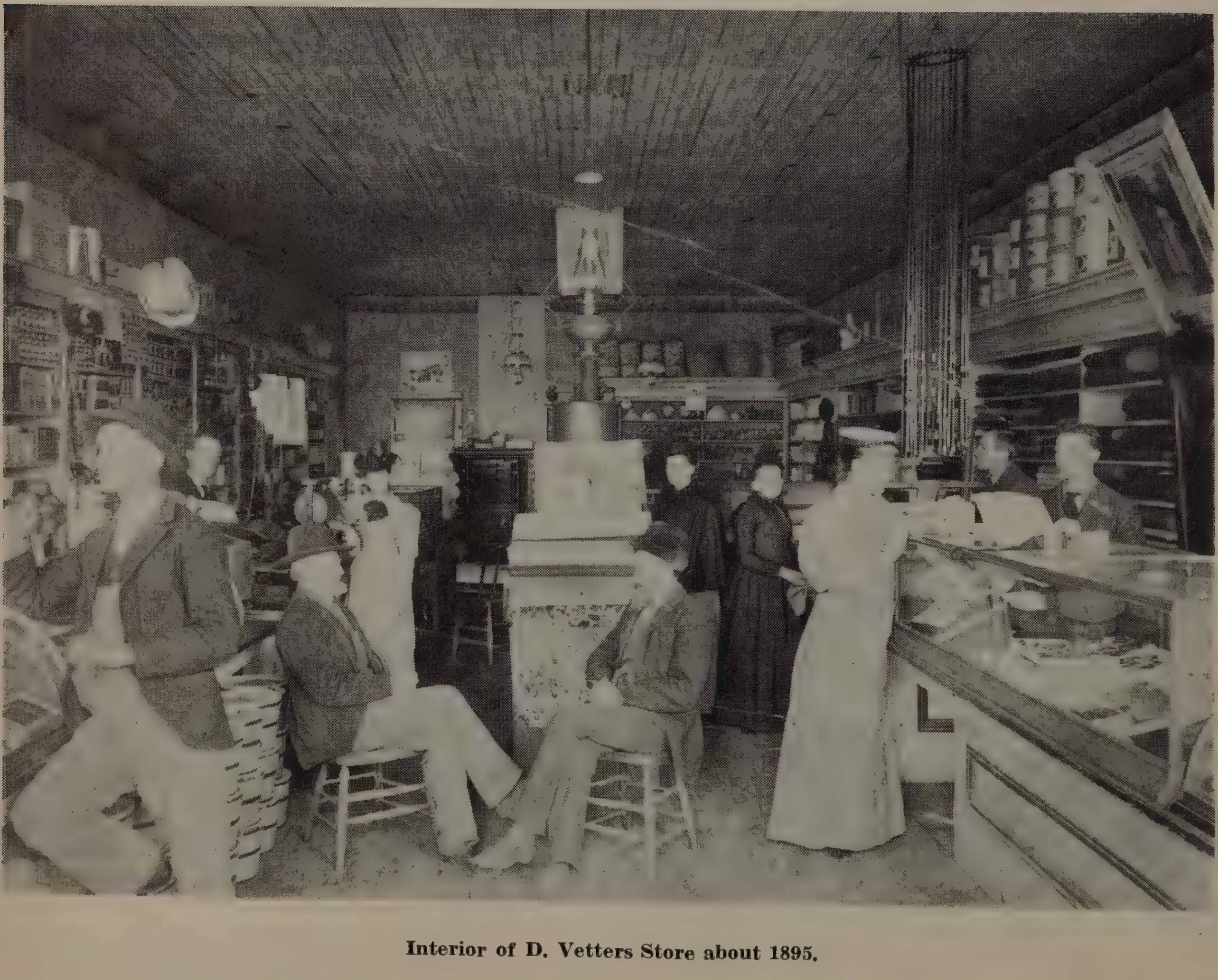


Old Mill Scene at Grant. Built in 1856 by Smith and Bell.



Old Grant, Iowa, High School.



Interior of D. Vetters Store about 1895.

1887 1953

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Red Oak, Iowa

Henry Travis, Auct. Ina Travis, Clerk

A Backward Glance Into East Township

Railroad Crossing Southwest of Villisca

The first settlement in Montgomery county was in Jackson township, now known as East township. The first town was Rossville laid out by Hiram Harlow, April 28, 1855, just one year after the county had been divided into townships. There is no record as to the section on which Rossville was begun but it never became a town.

There were various other settlements bearing these names, "The Valley," "The Ridge," "Hungry Hollow," names that have long since become obsolete.

Records disagree as to the first marriages. A Frank Findley and Miss Margaret Means went from this location and were married in Page county in 1853. Another record tells of the marriage of Thomas Means and Miranda Findley in July 1854.

It is said that the first schoolhouse in the county was built by John Ross in 1853 on Section 26 (a little south and east of the present site of Villisca). The building was of cottonwood logs and was paid for by subscription, the cost being $80. Also in this building, the first religious services were held, conducted by the Reverend W. C. Means of Cumberland Presbyterian faith. The third school in the county was taught by Mr. James P. Ross in 1865. His compensation was $18 per month and the school term was three months. There were about twenty-five pupils many of whom traveled about three miles to attend school. Among the pupils listed were the following names—Baker, McMillan, Means, Carlisle, Findley, Harlow, Moore and Penwell.

In June of 1859, a little band of people attracted from their homes in Highland county, Ohio, by the glowing accounts of the new country in Southwest Iowa, arrived on the banks of the Nodaway River just south of where Villisca now stands. They unhitched their horses from the wagons, turned them loose on the prairie, crossed the river on a big drift that for many years served as a connecting link between Ross Grove and "The Forks," followed a footpath through the woods and hazel brush, and came out into a bit of open country that was selected for the new town of Villisca. The Burlington and Missouri River Railroad company contempleted a line through the state and sent an agent ahead to locate the townsites, one of which was located between the Nodaways and named Villisca.

McNaughton Building, South of the Square in Villisca

A log cabin built by George West (the original owner of the townsite), and a little frame house built by a man named Scott were the only residences in the town. They were occupied by the families of Anderson Moore and Aaron Penwell. There was also a small frame building north of the square used for a store in which Thomas Moore kept a small stock of necessary supplies for the settlers. These three buildings constituted the town of Villisca except for the red stakes that marked out the lots surveyed to be sold. A letter sent to the men who were to arrange for the surveying was misinterpreted. The letter said to prepare "nicely pointed stakes." This was read "nicely painted," so the town was painted red once at least.

For a time the Carlisles and the Moores were the only residents of Villisca. Nearby lived families of Wests, Dunns, Gourleys, Meanses and Bakers.

In the fall or winter of 1861-1862 a steam sawmill was brought overland from Chariton and located in the south part of Villisca. This marked a new era—board fences, frame houses and barns began to appear. Up to this time there had been an old watermill on the Middle Nodaway known as the McMillan take life easy!

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to
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CENTENNIAL

Dr. Davis & Mannasmith

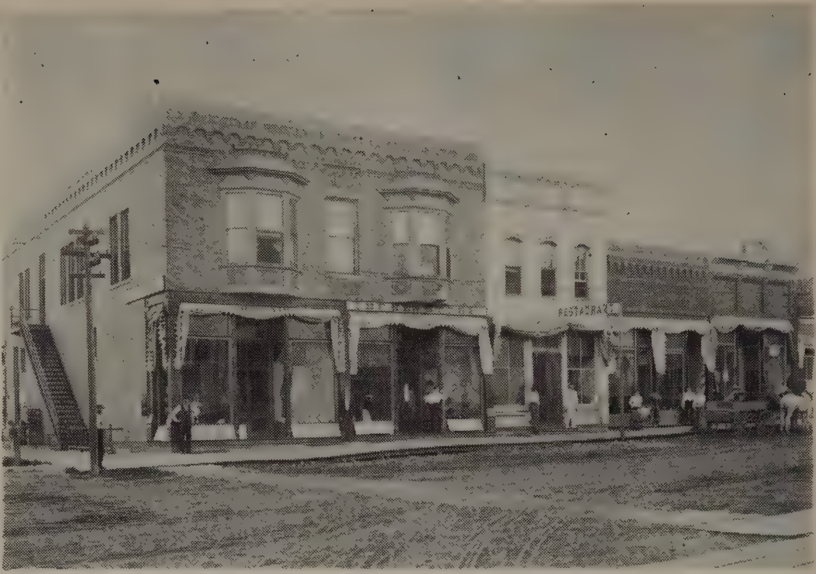
Moore's Trailer Court

101 Oak St.
Red Oak, Iowa

Mill—later this was called the Van Horn Mill. This mill was much slower than the new steam sawmill.

The close of the year 1865 found Villisca with three stores, a blacksmith shop, a doctor's office, and four or five dwellings. Philip Spargur ran the blacksmith shop. Dr. Huntsman had his office at the southwest corner of the square, Morgan Thurman had a general store at the southeast corner, and John Swingle sold drugs and groceries at the northwest corner.

In 1867 surveyors began preparation for the first railroad. This created great excitement. Immigration began at once, new buildings and businesses appeared. In the fall of 1869 Villisca was no longer a dream but a reality. Trains were passing through and strangers ceased being curiosities.



West side of lower Third Avenue in Villisca, late in 1890's

The first real school house in the town was built in the fall of 1866. It stood on a knoll just east of the present high school site and was surounded by hazel brush and sumach. Homemade seats and desks were the best that could be afforded but it had a real stove. Tommp Spargur boarded around as he taught. He was followed by Ellhu Davis, Asbury Damewood, and Sarah Means. This building served as a school until the demands of the district became too great and a brick building took its place in about 1872 where Lincoln School now is. This first biulding was valued at $12,000. The census of 1880 showed 212 male and 205 female children of school age. 404 were enrolled but the average attendance was 248. The average cost of tuition was $1.18 per month per scholar. Several additions were made to this building. Later it was replaced by the present site in 1888 to be replaced by the present high school in 1914. This building now houses both Junior and Senior High. The present enrollment, 425 elementary and 202 high school pupils, is in-

High School Football Team of 1903

In June of 1921, Mrs. Bertha Faunce purchased the millinery department of the former Robinson Department Store located on the west side of the square. After Mr. Robinson's retirement, Mrs. Faunce moved her millinery department and opened a ladies ready-to-wear store at 307 Reed st. During the latter part of 1933, Mrs. Faunce purchased the presently occupied building at a government auction. This building was formerly owned and occupied by the Farmer's National Bank now nonexistant.

Immediately after purchase, extensive remodeling was done both exterior and interior. This changed the old fashioned marble and stone facade and elevated mosaic tile floor to the present modern store.

On Thursday February 15, 1934, a full page congratulatory advertisement appeared in The Red Oak Express announcing the spring opening of the new store. A wonderful write-up by that newspaper stated that Mrs. Faunce had opened up "Southwest Iowa's Most Modern store."

Always known as "Red Oak's Friendliest Store," Faunces is appreciating the patronage of a third generation of customers as witnessed in the charge account ledgers down through the years.

Faunce's have always carried exclusive lines of ladies' ready-to-wear, millinery and children's wear. Top quality lines of hosiery, costume jewelry, and accessories are carried. The store policy has always been to only carry those lines which are nationally known and of superior quality.

In addition to operating the store, Mrs. Faunce has many out-side varied interests. She carries out a full scale farming program including dairy farming and cattle and hog feeding and breeding. She states that the success she has had in her farming is due to the assistance given her by the Farm Bureau and County Extension. Also under her supervision and ownership are two apartment houses in Red Oak, one of which was the first in town to be converted into a modern apartment building from an old rustic private dwelling of brick in three story height which was commonly seen in the early 1900's.

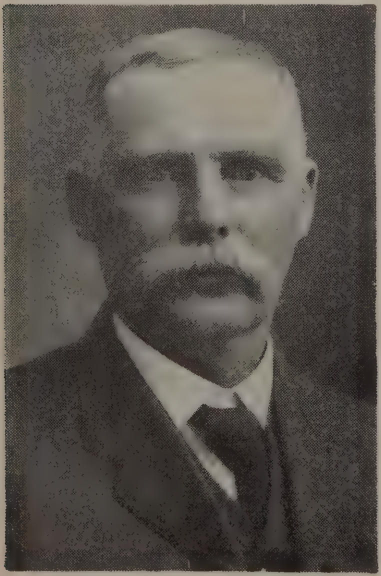
Her present project underway is a separate little village known as "Faunceville" located north of the city limits on Highway No. 48. Thus far the village consists of nine living units and she plans to add more in the future to make this a complete village.

Always experimenting with the unusual, Mrs. Faunce at one time in recent years had a registered herd of full-blooded Karakul sheep raised for the purpose of selling the valuable hides of the very young sheep.

Faunce's having served the public for thirty-two wonderful years, sincerely thanks Red Oak and surrounding trade area for their patronage and hopes to serve all, justly and rightly, for many more years to come.

creased by the fact that many rural schools have cloced and seven buses run into Villisca bringing rural children to school in town.

The first church society established in Villisca was the Methodist church organized in 1867. In 1870 they built a frame church at a cost of $3,000. A fine structure replaced it in 1896 at a cost of $13,500. This building burned in November 1938 and a beautiful church was soon built at the same location. The Baptist church was organized in 1869. Their $1800 frame building was replaced in 1896 by a fine brick structure which was unused for a few years prior to its razing in 1953. The Presbyterian church was organized in 1871 with thirteen members. A brick edifice was erected in 1874 at a cost of $4,000. About twenty-eight years later the present building was erected. A Catholic church was organized in 1875 and a frame church was built the same year southwest of the square. For many years Villisca was without a Catholic church until the erection of the present one on High Street in 1947. The Christian church had a church and services from about 1895 until 1938 when their church building was sold and removed. A Lutheran church was erected in 1939. The Advent Christian church was built in the fall of 1885. B. Forrester was the first minister. Several tent meetings preceded the building of the church.



O. S. DONOHO,
First Child Born in Douglas Twp.

Dr. McNaughton in Buggy

No history of a county should be written without mention of those who were loyal to the call of their country's needs. As each need arose, from the Civil War to the present defense against Communism, the young men from Villisca and surrounding East township have done their full share to defend the homes and the rights that our forefathers so nobly established for us their descendants.

The population of Villisca has fluctuated. It has never made a big gain—perhaps due to the lack of large industries. In 1905 there were about 2225 residents but the 1950 population is 1838. East township (formerly Jackson) is the home of many prosperous farmers, some of whom bear the names of some of our earliest settlers.

An Early Foot Race

It is related that on the day that General Lane, of Kansas, spoke at Sciola, in 1856, there was a notable foot race. Lane's men boasted that they had a man who could outrun any man in the states. The Montgomery county men didn't propose to be bluffed with any such chaff as that; they offered to furnish a man who would beat the brag runner in a race 100 yards, for $10. The money was soon raised, the ground stepped off, and a line of men formed all along on each side. The men had run only a few yards when a dog jumped in before them and kept running ahead right in their way; but the Montgomery county man finally jumped clear over the dog while it was putting in its best licks, and reached the goal by eight feet ahead of the other "fast man" — and took the purse. The Lane men didn't brag much after that.

The Life of An Early Doctor

Dr. Malcolm Ney McNaughton came to Villisca in 1870 and began the practice of medicine. In those early days the highways were poor, or non-existent. His family recall that his practice extended from Grant to Shenandoah, and often he would not sleep for forty-eight hours at the time, and was not able to return to his home for a week at a time.

He kept three teams, and a Kentucky bred saddle horse named Rambler. This horse was noted because he could trot from Villisca to Sciola. The people of the country-side could recognize the gait of his horse as they passed in the night.

As an example of the terrible condition of the roads, one night as he was driving his team, one of the horses sank in a mud-hole so deep that it was almost buried. He alighted from the buggy and walked to the nearest farm house for help. The farmer and his sons helped him extricate the horse by filling the hole with hay.

There were no telephones and the people came for the doctor on horse back. The sleep of the doctor and his family was broken frequently by the clatter of galloping hoofs and the urgent cry of Hey! Doc!

For some time during the Civil War, there was not a doctor or a lawyer in the whole county.

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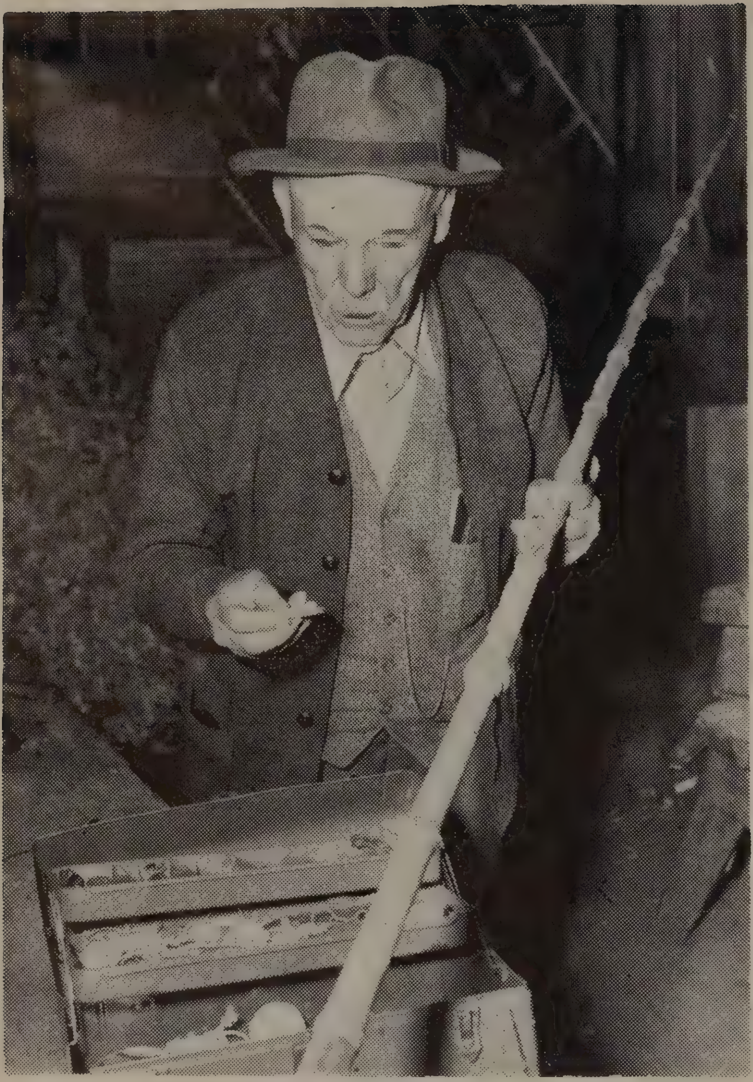
Uncle Billy Stipe's Indian Raid of 1858

Two Indians had stolen some horses in the Means neighborhood, and scared Mrs. Lott pretty badly. Their trail was discovered, and two of Mr. Stipe's brothers, besides a Mr. Bell and three or four others, started afoot, about three o'clock in the afternoon, and followed the redskins to the Nishnabotna. This river was so high that the Indians were afraid to attempt to swim it with the untried horses, for fear they wouldn't manage well, so they had left the horses, but swam across themselves. The Stipes party waited till morning, then crossed the river and soon found the Indians in a cabin. They surrounded the cabin, captured the Indians, stripped them and were going to hang them, when the culprits happening to get loose, ran like deer and made good their escape, back into Pottawattamie county. In a few days a constable came down from that county with a warrant for the arrest of all the men of our party, but he soon found out that it wouldn't be healthy for him to serve his warrant; he skipped back to his own beat without any prisoners, and sent the warrant to the sheriff of Montgomery county, where it is doubtless still lying, waiting to be served when the sheriff gets time to attend to it.



Tom Cooney

OLDEST MAN IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Tom Cooney, Villisca, who was 97 June 11th, came to Montgomery county from Pennsylvania in May 1857. Red Oak and Villisca were not on the map then. His family left Pennsylvania, came down the Ohio River to the Mississippi River, boated down the Missouri River getting off at St. Joseph, Missouri, where their boat ran aground on a sand bar. From St. Joseph they headed north by horse and wagon, and settled in Montgomery county on a farm two and one-half miles northeast of Villisca. Tom Cooney was eleven months old at the time.

About all there was in the county at that time were mills—the Silkett mill, north of where Red Oak is now, Morton's Mill and Tenville Mill. Wheat and oats were the chief farm crops, but much blue stem grass grew on the rolling hills.

In 1902, Mr. Cooney left the farm and took up the carpenter's trade. The biggest wage he ever got was $18.00 a month.

Cooney's favorite "work" was hunting and fishing. There were 'millions" of prairie chickens in Montgomery county. Wild pigeons and wild turkeys were abundant. He molded his own bullets, which he used in his fourteen pound rifle.

The old West Nodaway River was Mr. Cooney's "stamping ground." His first fishing pole was a willow branch, the line he made from sewing thread, and the hook was a bent pin. He has now gone 'modern' with fishing tackle. He has hooked wall-eyes, sun fish, shiners, bullheads and catfish in the river. In 1947 he caught a twelve and one-half pound catfish with hook and line.

Mr. Cooney remembers when Montgomery county was prairie as far as one could see. He recalls there were Indians here when he came — Pottawattamies — who camped by Morton's Mill. They were peaceful Indians, and never caused any trouble. He remembers too when the railroad started through the county in the fall of 1869.

But the West Nodaway River—the river that Cooney says he'll walk along and fish as long as there is life in him, the river he doesn't know how many times he has fallen into—that river is "his."

85 Years Young

Founded the latter part of 1868, at Red Oak Junction, The Red Oak Express is possibly the oldest business institution in Montgomery county still in active business. During all those years your county newspaper has either actively promoted or faithfully reported most of the worthwhile advances in the economic, social, business or religious life of the area. It has touched the lives of many families, through several generations. It has recognized its responsibilities, and several generations of its workers have done their best to serve the people and business of the county.

> It is people with a tradition that serve you, rather than machines. Many years ago, on presses that are now considered obsolete, fine printing was being done by the folks at the Express Publishing Company. We are proud of the opportunity to print this Centennial Program, and we hope that for the 200th county anniversary The Express will bid on and print those programs.

As the years and our people advance, we pledge our continued aggressive service in your behalf, our best efforts to bring you all the news and opinion in our county and beyond.

THE RED OAK EXPRESS

Thomas C. Murphy, President
J. Dee Ellis, General Manager
Jim Logan, Editor
Thomas D. Murphy, Business Manager
Thomas L. Marcum, Advertising

Frankfort Township's Glorious History

SARAH ANN STAFFORD
Early Settler, 1869

On January 15, 1851 the Governor of Iowa approved an act of the legislature defining the boundaries of Montgomery County. It is the first legislation in which the name of a county appears. These same boundaries exist today.

Montgomery County was surveyed in 1851. At that time there were only five families in the county - S. F. Snider, E. Heady, John Ross, James Ross and John Stafford. The County was ordered to be organized in January of 1853. Amos G. Lowe was appointed Organizing Sheriff. Three commissioners, W. S. Townsend, R. B. Lockwood and R. W. Stafford, met to locate the seat of justice of Montgomery County.

On July 22nd, 1854 the County Seat was located in Frankfort Township, described as SW¼ of Section 17 Twp. 72 North of Range 37 West. An order was issued by Judge A. G. Lowe on November 13, 1854 that the Seat of Justice of Montgomery County be called "Frankfort." As soon as the County Seat was located in Frankfort, Red Oak, then known as Red Oak Junction, cast a wishful eye upon it and ardently coveted the honor of being the capital of Montgomery County. The question of removal was finally voted upon in November, 1864.

The new town of Red Oak Junction was almost universally called Red Oak but the legal or Post office name was Red Oak Junction. The canvassers therefore threw out the votes cast for Red Oak. This gave a majority in favor of retaining the County Seat at Frankfort. In case the votes cast for both Red Oak and Red Oak Junction were counted, the majority would be in favor of the County Seat being removed to Red Oak. Upon these facts H. H. Campbell, who built one of the first houses in Red Oak, sued out a writ of mandamus to compel the canvassers to count as for Red Oak Junction the votes that were cast for Red Oak. It was not until the 8th day of June, 1865 that the legal entanglement was cleared and the supervisors were required to provide necessary offices for the removal of the books, records and other public documents to the new County Seat "Red Oak Junction." The court house was to be moved by January, 1866. The first term of District Court of Montgomery County was held at Frankfort on November 17, 1856. Before that date Montgomery County had been attached to Adams County for judicial purposes and court was held in Quincy, Adams County.

Pupils at Frankfort School in 1893. Edith Lathrope, teacher.

WINCHELL STAFFORD
Early Settler, 1869

The first court in Frankfort was held in the home of Dr. Amasa Bond, then District Clerk. Hon. E. H. Sears of Fremont County was District Judge and presided at a common dining room table in the log cabin owned by Amasa Bond. L. C. Cook was sheriff at that time. The first business done was to impanel the grand jury. The following persons were named. Wm. Dunn, I. N. Poston, Wm. Dinwiddie, John Bolt, Tyra Stafford, James Robertson, Isaac Coon, R. M. McMellon, Henry Kerns and Wm. Stipe. Five others had been summoned, James Carlisle, G. P. West, H. C. Shank, A. G. Wallingford and Jeptha Pitman, but they did not appear. Carlisle, West and Shank were excused but attachments were issued for Wallingford and Pitman and made returnable for the next term of court. Five bystanders were summoned, namely, John Honey, Daniel Stennett, A. J. Glover, Henry Billman and G. A. Gordon. Gordon was appointed foreman. The grand jury found six indictments at this first session. One of these was against Isaac Bolt and J. T. Patterson for un-

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lawfully and feloniously fighting each other. Another against a person for setting out a prairie fire. The other four were for similar incidents.

None of the cases were tried at this term of court. The second term was called and dismissed for lack of a suitable place to convene. The first Court House was built in Frankfort in 1857. It was a 1½ story frame building about 40 feet long and 20 feet wide. This building was moved to Red Oak in December, 1866. The citizens of Red Oak per agreement bore the expense of the moving. It is thought this time of year was chosen as there were no roads and the building would have to be moved along frozen trails. It took 30 yoke of oxen to draw the huge sleds upon which the building was placed. They moved northward from Frankfort around the dividing ridge between the waters of the little streams flowing into Red Oak Creek and those flowing into Nishnabotna River. When only half of the route had been covered the heavy clouds and intense cold coupled with the fact that the movers were off their course and going down a decline, they unhitched and abandoned their charge. Not one of the party could definitely locate the court house during the continuance of the storm. Not a man in Montgomery County could locate it, it was lost on the prairie. It was later located and brought around by the old McLean homestead two miles northeast of Red Oak and then to the County Seat via Washington Avenue and from there to the northwest corner of the public square, which is the present location of Sellergren Furniture Store. This building was used for court house purposes for several years. Some offices rented additional space in other buildings. In 1871 the County levied a tax of one mill to be used for building a new court house. This was kept up for three years. This money was later transferred to the bridge fund. It was not until July of 1890 that a cornerstone was laid for a new court house in Red Oak. After the first court house was moved to Red Oak another half story was added making it two stories in height. The original cost of this building was $3000.00 and later sold to Mr. Wadsworth for $200.00 and he used it as a feed barn.

First Montgomery County Courthouse. Later a part of old Wadsworth Feed Barn

One of the now obsolete towns of the county was Frankfort in Frankfort Township. There was peculiar charm about the small cluster of houses huddled together on a summit showing against the distant horizon. There were four buildings facing the east. On the west side was a plat designated the public square in which stood a flag pole. On the north was the court house. Jason Strait occupied the next building south built by R. W. Rogers, ex-County Treasurer. Then comes a residence called "Montgomery County Castle." Next came a large building devoted to general merchandise owned by Strait and Strout. There was another two story building facing northward toward the square. On the west side of the street was the home of Dr. Amasa Bond, a treble log house sometimes used for a hotel. Doctors Davis, Glover and Adair occupied the next three homes. John Shaffer lived near the west line of the town. Judge J. R. Horton lived on his farm just outside the town limits. There were a few smaller buildings in the town such as a blacksmith shop, stables, etc. .

The original owners of the land upon which Frankfort was located were Samuel Bear and Dr. Enas Lowe. John Burnsides dug the first well in Frankfort. Owing to the scarcity of lumber for a windlass and the want of a chain or rope this well was descended and ascended by means of a ladder. Mr. Burnsides also ground corn for meal in his coffee mill. His was probably the first house built in Frankfort. The first 4th of July celebration in Montgomery County was held in the school house in Frankfort in 1858.

The first record of a wolf scalp bounty for $1.50 on October 30, 1858 was paid to Armsted Milner, in Frankfort.

The first doctor to practice in Montgomery County was Dr. Amasa Bond who came from Hamilton County, Indiana and settled in Frankfort in 1856 and died there in 1857. It is believed that the first grave of a white person in Montgomery County is at the corner of the four townships, Frankfort, Pilot Grove, Sherman and Red Oak. A Mrs. Haefflick, the wife of a pioneer who just arrived in the county from the east, died and was buried in June of 1854. A roughly constructed coffin made from a wagon box. The grave is

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For 83 of Montgomery County's 100 Years...

Deep in the history of Montgomery County is the ancestry of the Mellott family. Its beginning was 83 years ago, in 1870, when Olney Clarence Mellott, who was two years old, was brought to a farm 5½ miles north of Red Oak. Olney was one of nine children of William and Nancy E. Mellott who were from Pennsylvania and Indiana respectively.

On December 31, 1891, Olney Clarence Mellott married Lizzie J. Clayman. Nine children were born to Olney and Lizzie Mellott, two girls and seven boys. One son Clarence died in infancy. Frank, Leslie, Harold, Donald and Delbert all farm in Montgomery County. Carl has been in the contracting business in Red Oak since 1936. The two daughters, Mabel and Opal, are both married and now live in Oregon.

The father of this family, Olney Mellott, was better known as "Dol". He first lived in Sherman township, moving to the B. B. Clark ranch in 1898 and continued to live in Montgomery County until his death, Sept. 30, 1938. Carl Mellott was born on the B. B. Clark ranch on March 6, 1899, and has lived in Montgomery County all his life.

Carl married Alice Isaac, December 16, 1919, and they moved to Red Oak in 1923.

At this centennial time when we pause to look back for a moment, we thought you might like to read of our History in Montgomery County as a part of this Centennial celebration.

. . . the MELLOTT'S are a Centennial Family

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located in what is now a public highway and is marked with a rock placed there by some present citizens of Frankfort Township.

Frankfort Township now in 1953 one hundred years since it's organization can still be classed first in many things. The whole township is now agricultural while it does not have a town as in years past. It can boast of the rich fields of corn and small grain. It's modern homes and livestock, yes, and it's solid citizens of whom many are descendents from the old pioneers.

The site of the old town of Frankfort is now an acreage. Donald Bond, a descendent of the pioneer Bond family now owns this site. The bungalow in which he lives in no way reflects the pioneer building which made up the town of Frankfort in 1853. The town is gone but it's spirit lives on in the hearts and minds of the fine citizens now living in Frankfort Township.

What's In a Name?

A party of Indians going westward came to a stream. They found a place so narrow and shallow as to be easily crossed without a boat or canoe. They therefore applied to that stream the name Nod-a-wa (now called Nodaway) meaning, "crossed without a canoe.

Proceeding on westward they arrived at the bank of a larger stream. Here they were obliged to construct a canoe in order to cross. To this river they gave the name Nish-na-bot-na—meaning "crossed in a canoe."

Indian Creek was named from some early Indian encampment on it's banks.

Seven Mile Creek got it's name because it was seven miles from where the old "Mormon trail" road crossed it, to the Mormon encampment at Indiantown; and this was an Indian village on the Nishnabotna, not far from where Lewis now stands. Sixteen-mile Creek was named the same way, and for the same reason as above, but is now more properly West Nodaway River.

Early in June, 1875, grasshoppers appeared in clouds and did great damage to crops. They came on Sunday, literally covering the ground and consuming every green thing, and remained until Tuesday.

HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION

On November 24, 1939 the original site of Montgomery county seat, Frankfort, was marked by a large boulder and dedicated by the Women's Clubs of the County.

Early history of the now extinct town was recalled by Justice Paul W. Richards. Mrs. H. C. Houghton, Jr. was the other principal speaker. Mrs. Edwin Curry of Grant, County Club Chairman, was in charge of the program. Mrs. O. A. Milner was chairman of the memorial committee.

The Board of Supervisors obtained the boulder and set it on the foundation. Beneath the boulder was placed a sealed box containing the records, similar to cornerstones in buildings.

Among the old timers present were Dave Vetter, veteran Grant storekeeper, and Biddie Vetter of Stanton, residents of the County since 1871. They went to the first Frankfort school. Their father bought the land on which the old town stood.

Max, Bruce and Jimmie Lee Bond, great-great-grandsons of Dr. A. Bond, first clerk of the court, were present at the dedication and rang the school bell opening the program.

In Douglas township, two and a half or three miles south of Grant there is an old Indian battle ground. Old bones, beads and other Indian trinkets have been found in years past. Sometime between 1840 and 1850 a battle was fought here between the Sioux and the Pottawattamies.

Did the Atomic Bomb Cause This?

The year 1856 was noted for being dry until about the middle of August, when it became exceedingly wet and cold. About the 12th of August, there was a hard freeze, destroying the growing crops. What corn withstood the dry weather froze solid.

Redwald, the celebrated trotting horse, was purchased of the estate of Thomas Potter in 1888 by twenty businessmen and farmers. The price was $5,000.

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Here & There in Garfield's History

Garfield is the third name by which this portion of our County is known. On September 6, 1870 the county board passed an order for the establishment of a new civil township, to be called Stanton after Secretary of War Stanton, and the first election was ordered to be held at the town of Hawthorn. The very next day, however, they reconsidered this new township matter, and set its territory back into Lincoln and West Townships. Again, on January 5, 1871, the present boundaries of Garfield Township were fixed as a separate township to be known by the name Walnut. The first township election in Walnut township was held at the school house near W. J. Taylors. The first trustees were George Traver, Isaac Cook and Ormond Runnels. E. L. Cook was the first clerk and J. M. Taylor, the first assessor. Just when the name of the township was changed from Walnut to Garfield cannot be established.

B. F. Runnels told that Stephen Glanden settled on Section 33 about 1851, and that Mrs. Glanden undoubtedly did the first weaving within the territory, and they lived there nearly ten years before there were any other settlers in this township. In 1870 B. F. Runnnels came to Montgomery county, settling at Hawthorne, and he and his family had much to do with the building up of Hawthorne. He kept the first post office, receiving and sending two mail sacks per week.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Walnut township, school district No. 1, was organized in 1876. This church is still an active church and is served by the Red Oak circuit.

Those who reminisce of early days of Garfield township tell us that Hawthorne was in those days quite a town; there were two elevators, a blacksmith shop, lumber yard, depot, boarding house, livery stable, a saloon, two stores, a church and quite a number of residences. At this time, there is a school house, the church, elevator and seven homes in Hawthorne.

Another landmark in Garfield township is McPherson, which is located approximately one-half mile north of Hawthorne. This was originally called Hebron on the railroad maps, but was changed to the name of McPherson in honor of Judge Smith McPherson. This can be called a village, as there is a store, a house and an elevator composing this town.

At the present time, E. F. King is the oldest resident of Garfield township, having celebrated his 91st birthday on May 14, 1953

An Early Lawsuit

Among the novelties of early lawsuits in the early years of the county's judicial history, occurs one entitled H. H. Campbell vs. John A. Smith, April 25, 1865. The case was called by Squire Hewitt, but the parties did not appear, and the court adjudged that the plaintiff should pay the costs, amounting to $3.55. Campbell had sued Smith for $20 due him for work he had done. Just below the docket record of the case the Squire had made this entry: "Plaintiff notifies the court that he has got his money from the defendant; that he, the plaintiff, made the defendant; pay him by threatening to **whip him if he did not pay the debt to him then and there."**

A Railroad Was Born

On December 27, 1910 at 2:30 o'clock the town of Grant ceased to be an inland town, and with the driving of the silver spike by Pres. Rattenborg of the Atlantic Northern and Southern Railway, Grant became connected by steel rails with the city of Villisca on the south, and the city of Atlantic on the north. Sciola and Lyman (Cass county) were also served by the railroad.

Due to the advent of the automobile "Aunt Nora and Sue" as the railroad was fondly called, could not compete with the new mode of transportation. In a few short years it folded, and another chapter of history was ended.

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Pupils in Garfield School No. 7, 1913. Otelia Malmberg, teacher.

IN GRANDMA'S DAY

When grandma was a blushing bride,
Way back in '62,
She'd never heard of atom bombs,
Still, she had troubles, too.

When folks came for a visit—
They couldn't phone ahead,
And sometimes, too, they caught her
Without a 'mite' of bread!

And then she'd have to hustle up
And bake some biscuits,—hot,
They didn't then have "biscuit mix"
But hers sure touched the spot!

And if they hadn't butchered yet
She'd run a chicken down,
There wasn't any market near,
She lived ten miles from town!

She'd stuff the stove with wood and cobs
(She'd never heard of gas)
And while it heated she made haste
To pick some 'garden sass'.

Sometimes the 'company' would help,
They'd peel a mess of spuds
With Grandma's aprons covered o'er
To save their Sunday duds.

Then Grandma'd fetch up some preserves
And get out her best castors
And then she'd get her hob-nail vase
And fill it up with asters.

She'd spread a cloth of snowy white
She'd woven when a lass
And later, bleached so carefully
Upon the dewy grass

Then, chairs and stools were hunted up
And each guest took his place
In silent reverence they'd sit
While Grandpa Brown said grace.

He thanked the Lord in Heaven above
For life, and food, and health,
And asked God's blessing on that home
Devoid of pomp and wealth.

They hadn't any luxuries—
They toiled and scrimped and prayed
And with faith in their Creator
Faced the future, unafraid.

They made this land America
The place it is today,
The strong-hold of democracy,
Where liberty holds sway.

And so—let's try to emulate
The courage they displayed
And face the future bravely
Serene and undismayed.

—By Rae Danbom,
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Grant Township, Westward-Ho

Early Days

As early as 1852 the Mormons made surveys and set stakes for a town in what is now Grant township. Their idea was to take possession of this western Iowa area, with Kanesville (now Council Bluffs) as their apostolic city. But there was division among them on the polygamy question and finally the polygamists or Brighamites followed their leader to Salt Lake City, while the Josephites or anti-polygamists remained in Pottawattamie and Mills counties. The stakes that were set for the Mormon town in Grant township were still visible in 1857 and the Mormon creek which runs through the County Farm books its name from this event.

But it was on Jan. 8, 1868 that a new township was formed in Montgomery County from the territory then constituting Red Oak township and was named Grant. Its first election was ordered to be held at a schoolhouse near the residence of Robert Davis in Section 19. The first member of the County Board from Grant Township was J. H. Bowen, who took the seat Jan. 4, 1869.

Coburg is the only town in Grant Township, and in 1881 it was the only station in the county, except Red Oak, on the Nebraska branch of the Burlington and Missouri River railroad, now the C. B. and Q. railroad. This branch was completed and opened for traffic in July, 1870. For many years Coburg was an important shipping center for the area. It was laid out as a plat by D. N. Smith, Justus Clark and the B. and M. Railroad Company. Its founders had hopes of its becoming a city as all the Southwest Quarter of Section 30 was platted. When lots did not sell in large numbers, the plat was reduced to its present size. E. Kretchmer was its first postmaster in 1871, and he was succeeded by A. M. Lull in 1879. It is told that Mr. Newcomer built the first store in Coburg.

Church and Schools

The first church organization in the township was the Good Hope Methodist Protestant church organized in October, 1859 by Rev. J. M. Young. It was probably located in the vicinity of the present town of Coburg.

The Coburg Methodist Episcopal church was organized February 19, 1880. The church was built in August 1880 at a cost of $1,675. The board of trustees was E. Kretchmer, J. H. Brooks, W. S. Hoar, J. Beeson, George A. B. Brooks and S. Q. Aleshire.

The Binns Chapel (Methodist) was built about 1880 at Binns Grove, Page county, and later moved into Grant township. It was later torn down and the material used in the construction of a Methodist parsonage in Stanton.

School houses were often used for church services and Sunday schools. There are now no churches in Grant township.

According to Wm. Cozad's recollection, the first school house was moved from Red Oak to Section 5 in 1863. But it seems that Miss Mary Etta Barker had taught a school still earlier in a log house belonging to Robert Davis in Section 19 for $13.00 a month. Formerly there were nine ungraded schools, but at the present time the only schools open are the consolidated school at Coburg and Mt. Pleasant. Some of the buildings still stand, but most have been used for other purposes.

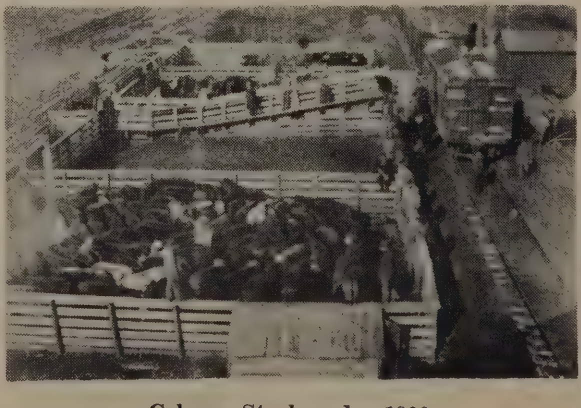
The only cemetery in the township is the Hewitt Cemetery in the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 5. It was a plot given for that purpose from the land of Joseph Meredith Hewitt, an early day Justice of the Peace and county supervisor. He and his wife and several of his family are buried there.

The town of Stanton had its first electric lights on March 30, 1911.

Provision for the Needy

On June 7, 1875 the board of supervisors passed a resolution to submit a proposition to buy a "poor farm" at a cost not to exceed $5000. On the ensuing October election the proposition was voted upon with the result of 770 votes for and 594 against. On January 3, 1876 the board ordered the county auditor to advertise for sealed bids to furnish the county with a suitable piece of land. After due consideration the board decided to purchase from Miriam and H. C. French the S½ NW¼ and NW¼ SW¼ of Section 4 for $4,000.00, and of Andrew Binns the N 7/8 of NE¼ SW¼ of Section 4, Township 71, Range 38. It was ordered that the county proceed at once to erect a building suitable for a "poor house" on the farm. The cost was to be $2,695. The structure was to be 35x45 feet in size and 20 feet high, a cellar 7 feet deep was to run the full length of the house. Dr. R. D. Sperry was appointed the first physician and surgeon of the farm at $95 per year. The first steward was W. F. Gleason. He served until March 1878 and was succeeded by C. E. Patterson at a salary of $600 a year. Samuel Ewing of West township, one of the board of supervisors, was appointed superintendent.

About the first of December 1880 the Board of Supervisors commenced the erection of a building for the care of the incurable insane of the county at a cost of $1,100. The structure was 28x28 and one story high. In January 1899 a contract was let to enlarge the house at a cost of $4,950.00.



Coburg Stockyards—1900
Cattle belonged to Adam Bellis and John Duckshier

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Quality Meats, Fruits and Groceries

Our first store was founded in September 1927, by Abe Mezvinsky. The store being a very small store, which consisted of the cases being opened in the aisles and all merchandise sold direct from the cases.

In December 1927, the store became a Corporation, with the buyers being R. K. Belt and M. D. Whimple along with Abe Mezvinsky. At that time modernization began with the installing of shelves, counters and cases.

Later expansion began and stores were added in Shenandoah, Villisca and Bedford.

The store in Red Oak then was not large enough to accommodate new merchandise and customers, so it then was remodeled and has been remodeled several times since to accommodate the customers in their wants and needs, and to help them in self-service ways.

Just a year ago, June 21, 1952, a new store was added in Red Oak to give even better and faster service to our customers.

We have a reputation of over twenty-six years of service to Red Oak, Montgomery County and surrounding communities.

When you think of Groceries—Fruits and Meats—
Remember your

RED OAK WHOLESALE FRUIT COMPANY NO. 1
101-103 Broadway Phone 2545

RED OAK WHOLESALE FRUIT COMPANY NO. 2
400 Washington Ave. Phone 9540

Old Gillmore Store

Items of Interest

Grant Township has fertile and productive soil, and all of the township is tillable. There are gravel pits in one area and potters clay can also be found. Near Coburg is a peculiar kind of coarse ferruginous sandstone, once much used for base and well walls. It is of the variety known as conglomerate and in England this type of stone is called "pudding stone," from its fancied resemblance to the old English Christmas pudding. It is soft when taken out, but hardens on exposure. The sand and gravel deposit is of glacial origin, but the bluff deposit came on top of that.

The first settlers in Grant township were from older states in the East and from other sections of Iowa. But after 1870, many Swedish people settled there.

Burlington was a gateway to the western prairies in the '60's. As Rev. B. M. Halland watched many covered wagons passing through the city, he had a great desire to aid the many Swedish immigrants in forming a large settlement where they could establish churches of their own faith. This opportunity came in 1869 when the railroad was built, and the officials of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad offered Rev. Halland his choice of location at any point along the line of their road for settlement, as there was to be a large amount of land opened up as soon as the railroad was completed. He decided on Frankfort, Scott and Grant Townships in Montgomery County, and Fremont and Douglas townships in Page county.

When Rev. Halland advertised in a newspaper that contracts for this land would be offered by him on April 1, 1870, many set out at once from Illinois. They found work on the railroad and lived in dugouts and shanties. For a three year period, many immigrants arrived in Illinois and after a short stay there, continued on to Iowa. The land sold for $6 to $11 per acre. These settlers were served by three Lutheran churches organized as follows: Stanton and Nyman in 1870, and Red Oak in 1872.

It is said that Anders Ossian with his wife and several children were the first to arrive on April 2, 1870 and located in Section 24. This farm has remained in the Ossian family. They lost three crops by hail and grasshoppers.

Gust and John Ossian, sons of Anders Ossian, arrived with their families about the same time and also had adjoining farms in Section 24. An incident related about them was typical of the Pioneers, who had neither money nor provisions. These brothers went to Henry C. Binns, who was already well esablished in farming in Page county, and he sold them wheat and corn for seed and also each a cow—all on time. No note or security was required, but that fall one of them returned to the Binns farm to husk corn as part payment.

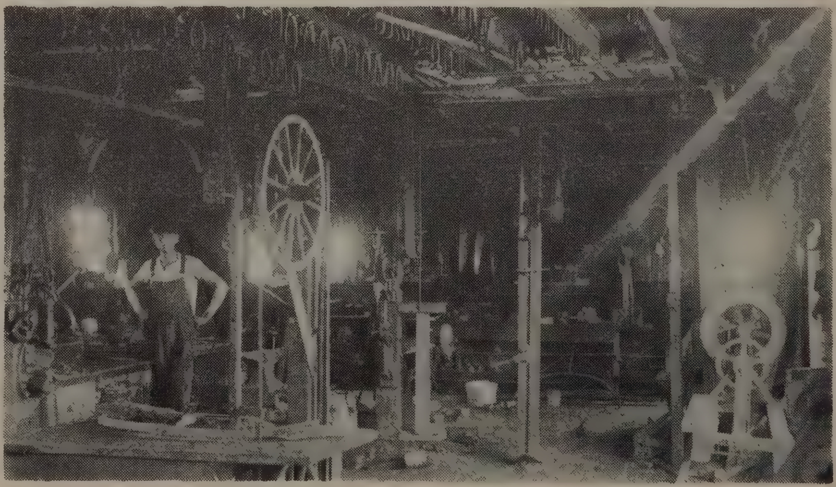
John F. Austrin, Section 35, arrived in 1871. He was the first organist of the Fremont church and also treasurer of school district No. 7, when it was organized April 15, 1876, and given the name, Mt. Hope.

The Sven August Peterson family came overland from Fairfield to Section 23 the same year. Seven years later they traded farms with the August Andersons in Scott township.

Two brothers, John and Charles R. Swanson located in Section 23 in 1872. John, the older one, remained on the farm while the younger one spent a year working on the railroad in Illinois and Iowa, and sending back money for payments on the land.

Swan Hawkinson, Section 13, followed farming in the summer, and the carpenter trade during the winter. After the family moved to Stanton, they became well known for their hospitality shown to immigrants arriving later.

Other families arriving in the '70's were: Charley Mattsons, Section 13, August Johnsons, Section 23; Lewis Ring, Section 12, A. G. Sandell, Section 13, and G. Alfred Mainquist, Section 35.



Amil Nelson Blacksmith Shop—Coburg, Iowa
About 1912

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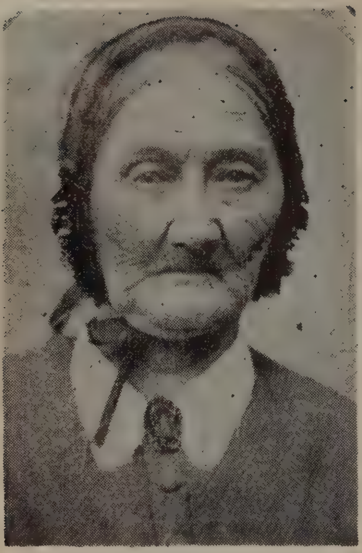

Ellen (Aunt Nellie) Stafford
Came in 1848

Stories of Pioneers

The following stories of pioneers and early life in the township are taken from the Merritt History and the History of Montgomery County which was published in 1881 and from records kept by descendants of the pioneer families still residing here. The story of the Binns and Stafford families was furnished by Mrs. C. E. Jackson, whose father was William Stafford and her mother was formerly Margaret Binns.

The Jonathan Binns family came from Brownsville, Pennsylvania in a covered wagon, leaving there in August of 1855. They settled on the southeast quarter of section 8 on land which is still owned by a member of the family. They erected a log house of one room, sixteen by eighteen feet, with one half window, a door and a sod fireplace and chimney. Their nearest neighbors were three miles away. They had shipped most of their goods by boat, starting on the Monongahela river, then down the Ohio, up the Mississippi, then finally up the Missouri. Somewhere in the Missouri river the boat sank and only part of their goods was saved. Their bedding was ruined. Their only light except from the fireplace, was made by a twisted string or material placed in a cup filled with grease.

Mrs. William Stafford, formerly Margaret Binns, said that at one time her family set traps for prairie chickens and caught a wild turkey, which they had as meat for their Thanksgiving day dinner.

John Stafford and wife, Nellie, came from Indiana and settled on Section 19 in May 1848. Nellie Stafford being the first white woman in the county according to history. At one time when her husband had gone to Rockport, Mo. to get some grinding done, and she was alone, she awakened in the morning to find a group of Indians camped across the creek near her home.

William Stafford came with his parents from Van Buren County in 1853 in a covered wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen. His father laid claim to eighty acres of land south of Coburg and built a house on it. He went to Missouri that winter and worked for one bushel of corn each day. He had it ground and then brought it home for bread which they baked in an iron skillet with legs. This skillet was set over the coals, a lid was placed over it and then hot coals were placed on top. The family ate corn bread for about ten years before they had any white bread. Mr. Stafford was twelve years old when he saw his first school house. It was a little one-room log cabin built back in some woods. For the desks long boards were placed across some logs used for supports. There were just two three-month terms of school each year.

He related that when a boy he was out looking for the cows and standing on a hill above the present location of Coburg, saw Indians camped in the valley. The Indians came here at times for hunting as there were still wild turkey, prairie chickens and deer here.

Thomas Weidman came here from Pennsylvania in 1856. He walked to this county from St. Joseph, secured a farm, was married on July 4, 1861, had a family, some of whose members still live in this county. About 1890 he represented this county as senator in the Iowa legislature. In 1862 he was summoned to appear at Frankfort for grand jury duty. He stated that he walked from the southwest corner of Grant township to Frankfort, not a field or fence to cross.

William Cozad came in 1854 from Ohio as a boy of 12 years with his uncle Robert Davis. He walked all the way, taking forty-seven days for the trip. At that time there were six families in the township, George W. Gordon, W. W. Hines, Wesley Hall, Robert Davis, Wm. Soward and John Stafford. After serving in the Civil War he was married in 1865 and owned land in southwest quarter of section 8 which is now owned by his grandson of the same name. In 1903 he was elected county supervisor.

James Hines in section 5 came in 1855. In 1856 the snow was so deep they couldn't get about and they lived on parched corn and potatoes. They had to grind corn in a coffee mill because they could not go to the mill, the nearest being at Rockport, Mo.

The winter of 1856-1857 was severe as snow covered the ground to a depth of three feet most of the winter and a crust was formed sufficiently strong to hold up a dog, but not a deer, their sharp hoof breaking through it. Large numbers of them were easily captured and one Dick Chamberlain killed seventy eight deer. The same winter, a herd of elk was exterminated, none having been seen since in the county.

In 1858 a Fourth of July celebration was held under the supervision of Robert Davis, living in Section 19. At that time Glenwood in Mills county was the nearest trading place.

Coburg Band—About 1912

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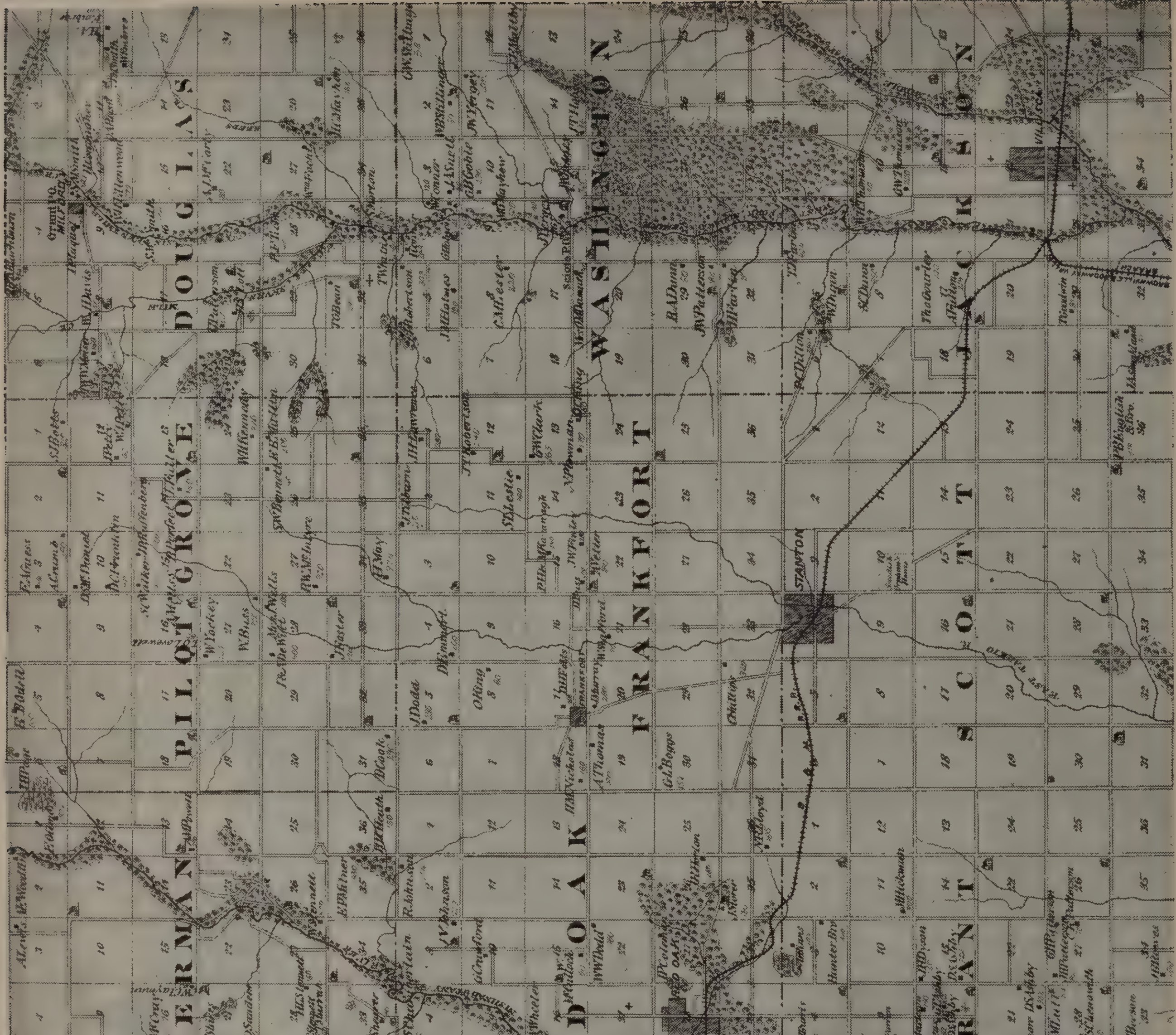
DOUGLAS
PILOT GROVE
SHERMAN
LINCOLN
WASHINGTON
FRANKFORT
RED OAK
WALNUT
JACKSON
SCOTT
GRANT
WEST
STANTON
RED OAK
COBURG
VILLISCA

This is a picture of a plat taken from the "Atlas of Iowa" published in 1875. There are several interesting things to be noted in this old plat. One is the names of the townships, Garfield Township was then called Walnut Township, and East Township was known as Jackson.

DON GELL MOTOR

The following employees were not present when this picture was taken: Mrs. Barbara Mewhirter, Bookkeeping; Doyle McHenry, Mechanic; Jim Still, Sales; Cleo James, parts panel truck.

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DON GELL TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO.

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Looking Back in Lincoln Township

Lincoln township, long noted as a settlement of Welsh people, is located in the northwest corner of Montgomery county, Iowa. The first Welshmen to come to Lincoln township were Benjamin Thomas and David and William Harris, who came in the spring of 1855. The first recorded deed for the sale of any land is in the year 1869, when 240 acres was sold to Benjamin Thomas for a total consideration of $420.00, or $1.75 per acre.

In 1870, John W. Davis, Richard P. Jones and John E. Wood settled in Lincoln township. They were followed the next year by Henry Thomas, John G. Jones, Wm. T. Edwards, Griff J. Jones, Griff Thomas and several others.

Wales Store 1953

Thirteen miles northwest of Red Oak, a village grew up in this settlement called "Wales." It's population of approximately 40 people has fluctuated very little through the years.

During the early years a little country store was erected by William B. Hughes, who operated it for several years. The lumber for the building was sent out on a wagon from Omaha. Since the original store was built, there have been several additions and the store has been modernized to a great extent. A popular owner of the store in recent years was Clarence Wedell, affectionately known as the "Prince of Wales." Strangely enough, he was not of Welsh but of Swedish descent.

The Wales store has always been a gathering place for the farmers of the community, and still is very lively on Saturday nights when the men gather in the south porch to have a game of cards, or just sit and talk, while the women gather around and visit about the topics of the day. For many years on Saturday nights there were always "treats" on the store, a big pot of coffee with plenty of cookies, or ice cream, according to the season. Since World War II, this feature has been given up.

In 1876, two churches were built, the Congregational, located one mile east of Wales, and the Presbyterian church located in Wales. Both churches grew rapidly and the members took an active part in all community projects. It was in 1947 that the members of the Congregational church decided that the burden of supporting two churches in one community was too great, and they voted to discontinue services in their church, and the building was dismantled.

In 1891 a cheese factory was built by Evan T. Evans on the farm which is now owned by Daniel Finley, located one mile south and one mile east of Wales. Mr. Evans made all kinds of cheese, and he had a large export business, shipping cheese to all parts of the United States. The cheese factory was a booming business until 1903 when Mr. Evans closed it, and gave his entire time and energy to his farming operations.

A school was built in Wales in approximately 1876. This one room school building served for the education of the children of the community until 1917, when it was voted that a consolidated school be built in the place of the original building. The new school building, which accommodates both grade and high school, has always been a source of pride to the people of Wales. Four motor buses bring pupils to school and return them to their homes. Felix Netcell, a farmer, drove one of the school buses for a period of 32 consecutive years, retiring in 1949. He never had an accident in all the years he was driving.

In 1949 plans were drawn for the construction of a new gymnasium, which building was completed in 1950. This building serves as a community center.

The First Wales Store—a meeting was held at the Presbyterian Church close by. Taken in 1890.

Walnut Creek was so named because of the abundance of black walnut trees originally found along its course.

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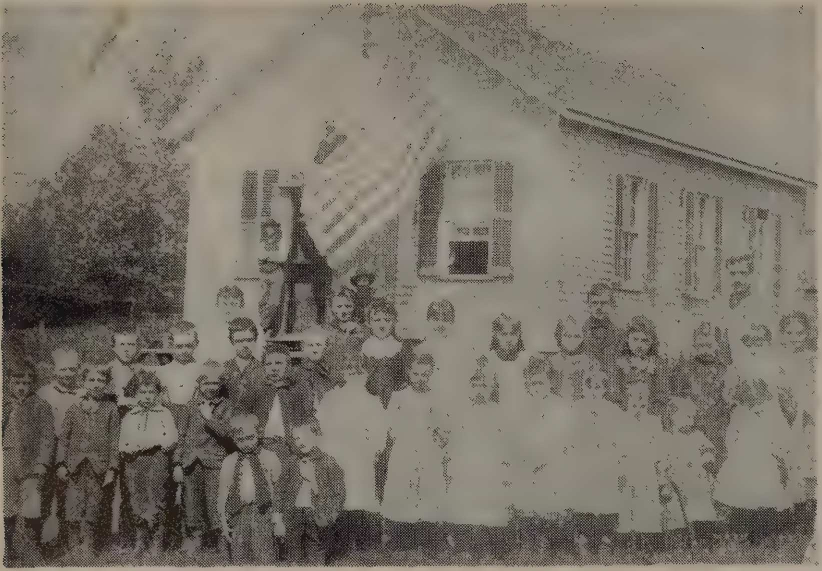
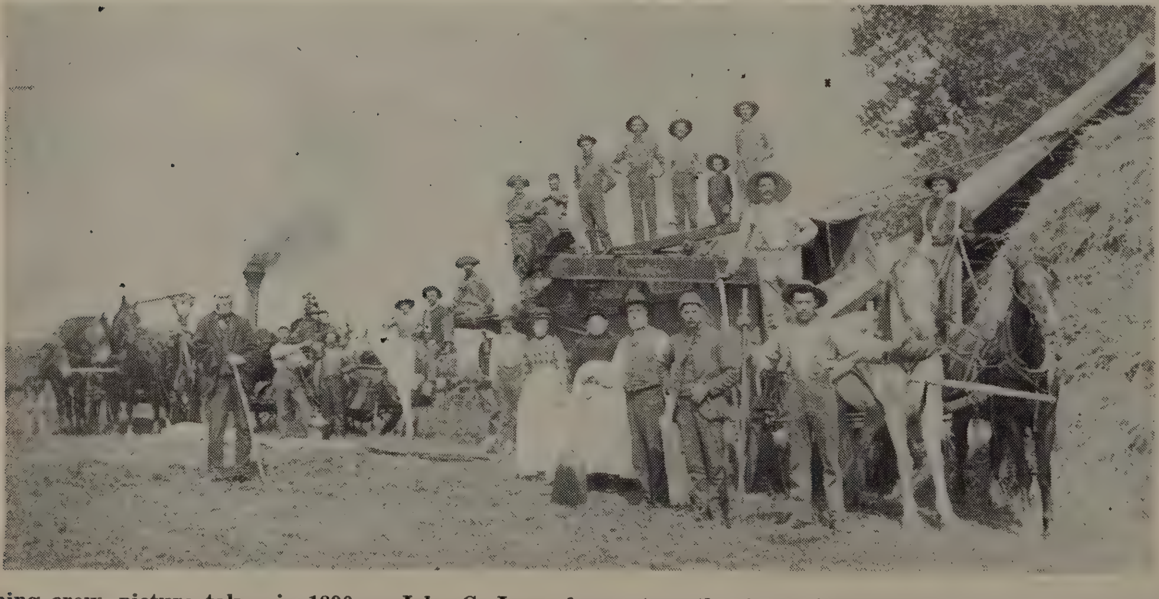


The First Wales School

Among those pictured are: Dave Jenkins, Lew Jones, Morris Evans, Clement Jones, Ted Owens, Ed Wood, Lizzie Jenkins, Annie Jones Johnson, Nell Jenkins Geopfarth and May Wood Cooper. The teacher, Sam Price. Picture taken in 1900.

New Wales Gymnasium

This building now serves as a community center for Wales.



Threshing crew, picture taken in 1890 on John G. Jones farm at south edge of Wales which is now owned by Julius Behrens. The threshing machine was operated by Bill Buehler.

1853 — 1953

Centennial Greetings

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Pilot Grove's Past and Present

Pilot Grove Center Church, 1953

It is said that the name "Pilot Grove" came into existence because the groves in the southwestern part of the township were used as landmarks to pilot the Indians and perhaps caravans across the country, and until recently, there were trace of trails in these woods.

The first mention of Pilot Grove in the public records of the county is from the County board proceedings of April 18, 1861. The name Pilot Grove as a subdivision of the county occurs for the first time under the date of Sept. 6, 1870. At this time an order was passed making all of township 73, range 37 into one civil township by the name of Pilot Grove.

On January 3, 1871, A. B. Milner was allowed $7 as clerk of Pilot Grove township for the year 1870, and is the first officer mentioned in any records. Other officers were Briggs Olds who served as trustee and B. L. St. Clair as assessor in 1870. The next year W. J. Petty and A. Harrison were trustees with J. A. Deming clerk. In 1872, Edwin B. Kerr was clerk and J. A. Shuey, justice of peace.

Among the first settlers, and probably the first, was John Dodd who homesteaded in the southwestern part of the township and whose son Joseph, born Dec. 5, 1850, was the first boy born in the township. The first girl baby was Prudy Cook born in April 1856. In 1853 Samuel Coe settled at Coe's Grove, Sec. 7, near Elliott and L. C. Cook and John Burnside came in 1854 with A. M. Powell settling in 1856. They remained only a short time moving to other parts of the county. Jacob Focht came from Ohio settling in 1856. They remained only a short time moving to other parts of the county. Jacob Focht came from Ohio settling in the eastern part of the township in 1856. The winter of 1856 was extremely cold, with snow on the ground from December to March, and Mr. Focht had to go to Savannah, Mo. for groceries and clothing as it was the nearest trading post. In 1861 Mr. Focht enlisted in Co. F, 106th regiment and was mustered out in 1861 and returned to Pilot Grove to make his home. The first marriage in the township was that of James Penry in the spring of 1857 by Squire Conner on the Nodaway.

Settlers came from Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Illinois and New York after the Civil War and by 1869 the township was growing. The people who came from the east were unable to cross the Tarkio because there were no bridges and the first settlers remained on the east side of that creek. The land was owned by the railroads, schools and speculators and early settlers paid from $3 to $10 an acre for it. Transportation was slow and difficult those days. L. R. Fuller came by covered wagon and bought his land on the east side of the Tarkio. There were no schools, but he established a blacksmith shop and had a fine race track with fine horses from all over the country. He built the first big barn in the township, part of which is still standing.

J. W. Pettit, another early settler, came with a yoke of steers from Wisconsin and "broke prairie" for other settlers to make payment on his first 60 acres of land. Corn was 15 cents a bushel and interest rates 18 per cent. Jack Petty came by foot from Indiana about this time and was known all over the countryside as "Uncle Jack."

Edson Buss, who still lives in Pilot Grove, came in 1869 at the age of nine. His family settled just east of where he now lives until bridges could be built across the Tarkio and then bought land on the west side. Lumber was hauled from Atlantic to build bridges and houses at this time.

One of the first things the early settlers did was plant trees and many planted large orchards. In 1870 Thomas Wall and I. H. Page each set out 500 apple trees and in 1880 Mr. Wall raised 200 bushels of "very fine apples."

The first school was called Pilot Grove and was located in the district which is now No. 9. The first building stood on what is now known as the J. D. Baird farm in the southwest corner where the east and west road joins the north and south graveled road. There is still a depression marking the spot. The desks were logs split in half and the seats were similar style. It was here that Mr. Edson Buss went to school when he first came to Pilot Grove, walking four miles either barefoot or wearing cowhide boots. Later the location was moved to the site known as Sunny Dale, where the present school building now stands. By 1881 there were nine ungraded schools with 6 men and 3 women teachers, a total of 244 pupils and an average attendance of 170. At this time the average cost of tuition per month was $1.25 for each pupil. In 1920, after much controversy, Pilot Grove school districts consolidated, but

1930 Pilot Grove Sunday School Class

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Leading sale of Southwest Iowa where you can buy or sell with confidence. We have efficient help and can give you honest and courteous service.

L. V. BRADLEY, Owner

STORZ SUPPLY CORP.

Automotive Parts and Equipment
Red Oak, Iowa

HIGHWAY 48 CAFE

Vada Breedlove, Prop.
HOME COOKED MEALS
Red Oak, Iowa

because of transportation and expense each district kept its own building instead of having a centrally located one. District No. 3, near Elliott, was taken into the Elliott Consolidated district at that time. In 1945 because of fewer children and scarcity of teachers some schools were closed and with better roads and transportation children are now taken by busses to nearby towns. In 1953 District No. 9 will be the only one of the original school districts having school.

Pilot Grove Ladies Aid, 1923

Pilot Grove Church

Much of any community life centers around the church and the first record of religious meetings is that of a circuit rider, A. P. Gilmore, who held meetings at the original Pilot Grove school house. In 1870 Mr. Yockey located on a farm near the center of the township and organized the Pilot Grove Center Methodist Church. The first meetings were held in the schoolhouse with Mr. Yockey, Martha Yockey, Thomas Pettit, George A. Pettit, and Rachel Pettit as members. In 1881 there were 65 members. In 1886 pledges were given to start the construction of a church which was dedicated the summer of 1887. The stone for the foundation was hauled by team from Red Oak. The original church consisted of the central part of the building as it stands today and the aisle was so narrow that at funerals the casket had to be lifted above the pews to be carried. Between May 1893 and June 1894 the part to the south was built and in 1922 two Sunday school rooms and a basement were added. The first Ladies Aid Society was organized in 1887 and continued to operate until 1897. There is no record of it until 1904 when it was reorganized. The first record of Sunday school is dated January 1893, before that the Ladies Aid served as a place for Bible study. The first person buried in the Pilot Grove Cemetery was Mrs. John King. Today, although many rural churches have disbanded, it is a thriving church and extensive improvements were made during the past year.

In 1878 the United Presbyterian Church of Pilot Grove was organized. This church was built on Section 35 in District No. 7 and cost $1,200. The original members were John Askey and family, J. Y. Martin and family, Isaac Barr and family, and J. A. Deming and wife. This church disbanded several years ago.

It is hard to realize the changes that have taken place since those early days. The population increased until 1880 when it reached its peak of 880 people, but by 1950 it had decreased to 489. Practically all farming is done by machinery. Electricity has made it possible to have modern conveniences in the home eliminating much of the hard labor that the early settlers had to endure. With good roads, many of which are graveled, automobiles, radio and television, Pilot Grove is an up-to-date and thriving community.

District No. 1, Botts School, Pilot Grove, 1893

Red Oak River Ferry

In 1864 David Cook obtained a license for $5.00 to operate a ferry across the river at Red Oak until a passable bridge could be built. A two horse team and wagon was charged 50 cents and a man on foot 10 cents.

Early Political Parties

In 1854 there were the following political parties: "The Know Nothin" party, the "Silver Grays," the Seward Whigs," the "Hunkers" and the "Barn Burners." The Democratic party this year met its first defeat.

The name Tarkio, for which Tarkio Creek is named, is believed to have been an Indian name for wild turkey, but no good authority was found for it.

Early Scene of West Side of Red Oak Square

74 Years of Sound Banking

H. C. HOUGHTON'S BANK.

OFFICERS—H. C. HOUGHTON, PRESIDENT. WM. PLANCK, CASHIER.

Deposits received, subject to check, from individuals, firms and corporations. Small deposits are taken as freely as large ones. Commercial paper discounted; loans made on collateral; certificates of deposit bearing interest issued.

We Loan 6 per cent Money
On Improved Farms . . . . .

CORRESPONDENTS:

Chase National Bank, - - - - New York
First National Bank, - - - - - - Chicago
Citizens' State Bank, Council Bluffs, Iowa

Reed Street, Corner Third,

Red Oak, Iowa.

(This is a reproduction of the ad that appeared in the 1894 Christmas Edition of the paper.)

HOUGHTON STATE BANK

OFFICERS

H. C. Houghton, Chrm. Board
C. Lester Anderson, Cashier
Vivian Nelson, Ass't Cashier

H. Deemer Houghton, President
O. N. Hultman, Vice-President
Cole H. Houghton, Vice-President

Deposit received, subject to check, from individuals, firms and corporations. Small deposits are taken as freely as large ones. Commercial paper discounted; loans made on collateral; certificates of deposit bearing interest issued.

WE LOAN 4 PER CENT MONEY
ON IMPROVED FARMS . . .

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Member

Coolbaugh St., Corner Third
RED OAK, IOWA

Red Oak Township Growing With Montgomery County

Red Oak, the county seat of Montgomery county, is located in the center of a rich farming area. The city is on the main line of the CB&Q Railroad and on U. S. Highway No. 34 and State Highway No. 48.

The first settlers to the community were W. C. Mathews in 1851. Pleasant Jones came in 1852, and James Shank in 1854.

From 1866 to 1868, Red Oak made very little progress. Justus Clark stated that in 1868 he stood on east hill and counted every house in town. They numbered fifty, including all kinds.

With the approach of the railroad in 1869, Red Oak took on new activities. In that year Red Oak was organized into a town. Heretofore the only government was the regular township government. Today, the city of Red Oak contains 2,080 acres and over 2,100 residences. It has an estimated population of over 7,000.

Among the names of the early pioneers of Red Oak are to be found, Justus Clark, lumber merchant and farmer; Charles Bolt, contractor and builder; Charles F. Clark, cashier of First National Bank of Red Oak; Horace Deemer, attorney-at-law; W. H. Evans, a watchmaker and jeweler; M. E. Fisher, dealer in groceries, provisions and fruits; J. F. Fisher, retail and wholesale dealer in cut meats; L. N. Harding, farmer; Alfred Hebard, real estate dealer and capitalist; J. W. and F. O. Judkins, proprietors of the Judkins House; J. M. Junkin, attorney-at-law; Smith McPherson, attorney-at-law; Jason B. Packard, farmer; Henry Shank, druggist; C. H. Lane, Red Oak's first merchant; and O. E. Whitaker, livery, feed and sale stable operator, and too many others to name.

AERIAL VIEW OF RED OAK

An Early Privilege

It was a "great privilege" to ride on Red Oak's street car, which was drawn by mules. The car barn was located at Prospect and Sixth streets, and the route of the street car was along Sixth street, then west on Reed street, then south on Fourth street, thence west on Coolbaugh street to the west corner of the Washington school corner, and then south to the Depot Hotel. The street car was operated by Mr. M. Bonham, and the fare was five cents.

Early Scene of East Side of Square.

Mule Drawn Street Car.

A & N OIL COMPANY

Walt Askloff

PHILLIPS Phillips 66 PRODUCTS

SERVICE STATION

Dial 4294 Red Oak, Iowa

Since 1869, just 16 years short of a CENTURY, some member of the DRAPER family, even to the third generation, has been in business in Red Oak.

This certainly shows the Faith of the Draper family in this community and the Faith of this community in the Draper family.

HARRY DRAPER

Plumbing, Heating and Electrical Shop

Since 1903

404-3rd St. Tel.—Day 3106, Night 3116

EXCAVATING

General Excavating Work
Equipped with Draglines, Bulldozers.
Bulldozing of all kinds
Grading — Culvert Work Draining —
Pile Driving

Dial 4766 — B. B. Simmons

110 W. Reed

GALLOWAY BUICK

210 Reed Street Phone 4543

Red Oak, Iowa

Federal Land Bank Loans

Herb Honette, Secy.

Red Oak **Corning**

Fifield Furniture Mart

Off the Square But on the Square for Furniture Values.

RED OAK, IOWA

Production Credit Association

Agricultural and Livestock Loans

Paul E. Carlson, Secy.-Treas.

Houser Grocery

Coburg, Iowa

DRINK Coca-Cola
Coca-Cola

RED OAK, IOWA

Industries on the Move

Thos. D. Murphy Co. Red Oak's Oldest Centennial Industry

In 1888 two enterprising young men, Edmund B. Osborne and Thos. D. Murphy, came to Red Oak and entered the newspaper business, publishing one of the three newspapers in this town of 3,000.

The new Montgomery county court house was being built at this time and they decided to buy a woodcut of the court house for their newspaper. This cut would be so expensive that they felt they must make some further use of it and they decided to make an advertising card with the cut of the court house in the center. Then they sold the space around it to business men of the town for advertising. It has never been determined just who suggested putting the calendar pad beneath the picture, as some of the advertisers claimed the honor of having made the suggestion. Nevertheless, it was done so that people would leave the picture hanging on their walls longer, which would be an advantage to the advertiser. It was in this way that the first calendar with a picture and advertising on it was sold.

They called their new business the Osborne-Murphy Company and were incorporated in 1891. Mr. Osborne did most of the selling at first but soon added three or four men to his sales force, one of whom was Mr. Bigelow, who later founded Brown and Bigelow Company in St. Paul. Mr. Murphy took care of the manufacturing and business end.

Some years later the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Osborne bought out Mr. Murphy and very soon moved the company to Newark, New Jersey.

In 1900 Mr. Murphy invited his brother-in-law, William Cochrane, to join him in founding another calendar company. The building which now houses the Express Publishing Company was built and the new calendar business was conducted in the same building with the newspaper.

The Thos. D. Murphy Company soon outgrew its quarters and the present factory was built and occupied in 1905. Charles Murphy, brother of Thomas D. Murphy, was one of the first pressmen and later purchasing agent and superintendent of the factory.

In the depression of 1932 the opportunity came for Mr. Cochrane, who continued as president and general manager after the death of Mr. Murphy, to buy the Murphy Company in exchange for his stock in the American Colortype Company, which business had become associated with the Murphy Company some years before. Business was at a low ebb and it was a great gamble, but he took the chance and the Murphy Company remained in Red Oak.

After Mr. Cochrane's death in 1938, the business as conducted by his sons-in-law, Malcolm D. Lomas, J. Lyman Turner and John L. Crofts. In 1951 Malcolm and Anna Lomas, his eldest daughter and son-in-law, bought the control of the business from the other heirs, who plan to conduct it along the lines that Mr. Murphy and Mr. Cochrane followed, assisted by their faithful co-workers.

Kerrihard Foundry To Ko-Z-Aire Products

The present Ko-Z-Aire furnace company had its beginning in the early 1890's with the founding of the Kerrihard company. The company was originally started by the late E. W. Kerrihard's father. It was operated as a foundry, but also produced many steel items.

In 1931 E. C. Knight purchased an interest in the company, and upon the death of E. W. Kerrihard in 1936, Mr. Knight and W. O. Zaelke continued to operate the foundry.

Mr. F. A. Kavan purchased an interest in the company in 1938 and became general manager. Under Mr. Kavan's management the first Ko-Z-Aire heating units were manufactured.

After World War II the company changed its name to Ko-Z-Aire Manufacturing Company, and in 1948 the company was purchased jointly by two eastern corporations. The plant continued operation under that ownership until 1951. It was then sold to the present company, Ko-Z-Aire Products, Inc.

Ko-Z-Aire Products, Inc is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Anchor Post Products, Inc, Baltimore, Md.

Presently the local plant manufactures more than 35 different models of furnaces with an annual production of 10,000 units.

National Carbon Co. A New Industry

National Carbon Company is a Division of Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation. The Corporation was incorporated in 1917. National Carbon Company was corporated in 1886. The original product made by National Carbon Company was carbons for flame arcs for street lighting. The first showing in the world of these was in the City of Cleveland in 1878. National Carbon Company pioneered in the field of dry cell batteries for flashlights and manufactured the first commercial dry cell in 1890. Through continuous research and development the Company has grown steadily since its origin and today markets many well known products varying from giant electrodes used in the manufacture of steel and chemicals to small but powerful Eveready Batteries.

The Red Oak plant went into production in June 1948. This plant manufactures Eveready Batteries which are used in portable radios, hearing aids, and for many uses by the United States Signal Corp, Air Force, Army, Navy, and Weather Bureau.

Farmers Mercantile, Outgrowth of Red Oak's First Store

On January 29, 1918, the first meeting of the board of directors of the Farmers Mercantile Company was held by the stockholders of the Company.

The officers of this corporation were: President, J. A. Axelson; Vice-President, John Oliver; Secretary-Treasurer, Charles M. Barton. The directors were M. O. Allen, F. M. Culver, John Oliver, Harry B. Turner, and C. A. Youngberg, who named Sven Pehrson, Jr. as manager in 1918.

It was the decision of the directors to buy the business of the Lane Implement Company, and to rent the building on the west side of the square occupied by it, then owned by J. S. Baxter. The C. H. Lane store was the first in Red Oak, located on the corner now occupied by the Houghton State

Perryman
FUNERAL CHAPEL

Perryman

FUNERAL CHAPEL

●

A DIGNIFIED SERVICE

●

PIPE ORGAN ● AIR-CONDITIONING

DIAL 2660

506 Coolbaugh St. ● Red Oak, Iowa

Bank. This was the location of the main store and offices until February, 1951.

The object of the corporation and the general nature of its business was to conduct a mercantile business on the cooperative plan, and it was to include the buying and selling of merchandise, implements, grain and livestock.

Mr. Charles Miller was appointed manager in March, 1923, and retained the managership until his death in 1946.

Plans were drawn for a feed manufacturing plant in 1949, located at 102 South Third street in Red Oak. Construction of this building was completed later in the same year. It is here that the commercial feeds are mixed and sold retail and wholesale by the Farmers Mercantile Company.

In December, 1949, 7.7 acres of land was purchased at the northwest corner of the intersection of Highways No. 34 and No. 48. Plans were drawn and completed for the construction of a brick building, which covers 57,700 square feet. Construction was started in May, 1950 and in February, 1951 the moving of the Farmers Mercantile Company was completed. All the business, with the exception of the feed manufacturing plant, is located in the new building.

The present officers are: President, George J. Bass; Vice-President, Evan J. Evans; Secretary-Treasurer, Russell Falk. The directors are Orville Hoffman, Virgil Freed, Gustave Nelson, and Glen Confer, with Milton Baldwin, general manager.

Red Oak's Past Industry

Joseph Fisher had a vision of what the meat packing industry might be in this area. In 1870 he had a packing plant which processed hogs. All of this was before the days of mechanical refrigeration and it was difficult to keep ice enough through the hot summer months to make the business profitable.

Buggies were the fashion in those days so George B. Brown established an iron foundry and machine shop and manufactured all kinds of buggies. They also did lots of blacksmithing and sharpening of plow shares and discs. This company was located just west of the Johnson Hotel.

The Red Oak Canning Co. was organized in 1902 by Ira M. Needles. It was located in the old Fisher packing plant near the river on West Coolbaugh. Peas and corn were the main products. Many managers served the company, but Mike Munson was with the company from its start and served as production superintendent for 12 years. In 1933 the equipment was sold to the Otoe Company of Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

A brewery was built in 1870 in Red Oak just south of the viaduct on Highway 48 by Charles Steinbrecher at a cost of $4,700. It had a capacity to manufacture from 2,000 to 3,000 bushels of barley per year into beer.

The River Roller Mills was the property of Clark & Co. It was situated two miles north of Red Oak on the Nishnabotna river. This was the oldest milling plant in the county. As early as 1857 a grist mill was built at that point, and a post office named Oro was established there. With the advent of the railroad, the post office was moved to Red Oak, but the mill remained because of the fine water power. The capacity of the mill was eighty barrels daily. Their products were sold under the well-known brand names of "Gold Band," "Home Rule," "Silver Leaf" and "Red Star."

The City Roller Mills, which later became known as the Replogle Mill, was established in 1889 and made rapid progress, but on June 15, 1892 the mill was burned to the ground. By November of the same year, it was rebuilt and ready for business. The ground meal was placed into a sifter with ten sieves, each with six compartments. From this machine thirty-nine different products were produced. The very choicest brand was "High Patent," which sold at $1.00 per sack in 1894. Other brands almost as good were "White Loaf," "Champion," 'Jersey Cream" and "Beauty" at 95 cents a sack and "Blue Ribbon" and "Economy" at 85 cents a sack. This mill ran night and day and had a capacity of 350 sacks every 24 hours. The present industry occupying this site is the Dannen Mills.

The Red Oak Pottery was established by Webster Eaton and in 1874 leased to W. H. Close. Its manufacturing capacity was 9,000 gallons per month. Plenty of good clay was found about one mile south of the works. Mr. Close had the honor of being the inventor of a method of running his pottery kiln with corn cobs. This was probably the only place in the world where this as done. During the season of 1880, 1,500,000 bricks were made and used in Red Oak, and they, too, like the pottery, were burned with corn cobs. Lard jars, milk crocks and flower pots were among the many items manufactured.

An old stone quarry was located five miles north of Red Oak on the Ben Clark ranch. It was operated by Norman Nunn. Seven or eight men were employed at the quarry and they had to live there because transportation into town was too difficult. Eight teams each made two trips daily into town with rock. Rock from this quarry was used in the county jail, the court house and the Catholic school, as well as the crossing rock for the streets.

When Tom Nunn was too small to pull the brake on the wagon he used to drive a team loaded with rock for his father. His older sister went along to apply the brake.

In 1886 Dan Gunn began the manufacture of gloves and by 1894 this industry was a recognized feature of the town. The factory employed from 10 to 25 people and the product was sold all over the country direct to retail dealers by five traveling salesmen. Mr. Gunn made a specialty of genuine buckskin gloves. His factory was one of the few that used real deer skin.

The Red Oak Brick and Tile Works was one of the pioneer tile factories of southwest Iowa. It was established in 1883 by R. E. Cook. It was located one mile east of the old C. B. & Q. depot. They manufactured common brick, drain tile and paving brick. Later F. A. Wetherhead became a co-owner.

Keystone Roller Mills erected by Messrs. Stover and Lane in 1875 were one of the best mills in the county. It was located on the Nishnabotna about one mile south of Red Oak Junction. The building was 30x30 feet and four stories high. There were two runs of burrs. All of the machinery was said to be new and of the best. Later in 1898 it is said Mr. Keen ran the mill and lived in the house on the hill above it.

New Church at Elliott

Perhaps the greatest day that ever came to the Methodist people of Elliott, Iowa was Sunday, Jan. 12, 1911 in the dedication of their $12,000 church.

COZAD SERVICE STATION

Junction 34 and 48

Red Oak, Iowa

TEXACO PRODUCTS

Served the Public Since 1916

GREEN PARROT

Joe, Cecile, Andy, Bessie, Tom

Lunches
Fountain Service
Home Made
Candy
and
Ice Cream

East Side Square
Red Oak

NELSON'S DAIRY

Est. in 1920

Built on Quality and Service **Pasteurized Dairy Products**

At Your Store or At Your Door

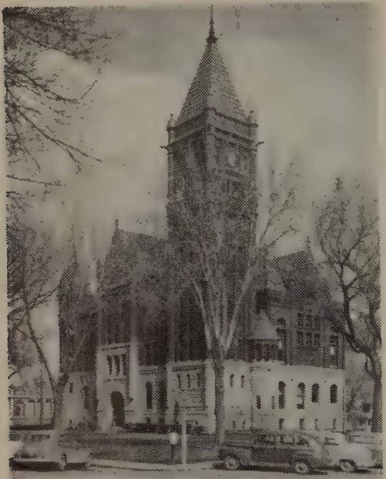
Grade A and Standard Milk

Dial 9242 Red Oak, Iowa 1006 - 4th St.

Faithful Officers Work in County Landmark

County's Outstanding Landmark

Perhaps the most outstanding landmark in the county today is our county court house. The corner stone of this building was laid July 4, 1890. This being such an important event in Montgomery county, it drew people from all directions, making a crowd of over 10,000. This is a commodious building which is fireproof, thus making a safe and permanent depository for county property and records. It was built of Missouri limestone, red pressed brick and terra cotta, with a slate roof. All frame work and supporting beams are made of steel.



Present Day County Court House

The original contract was for $69,000.00 which was less money by far than the actual cost of the work.

Of particular interest is the red stone tower with four clocks looking down on Red Oak while everyone looks up to them. The principle on which they run is the same as a grandfather clck.

COUNTY OFFICIALS 1926

Front row: S. Rea, janitor; F. Y. Barnes, clerk; J. A. Baker, sheriff; Carl Nimrod, auditor; Philip Ostrom, deputy auditor; H. P. Mayhew, treasurer. Second row: F. E. Billings, attorney; Luella Swiger Mains, deputy clerk; Edna Rea, deputy superintendent; Ethel Swiger Richards, deputy recorder; Guy Hobbs, deputy sheriff. Back row: Hazel Langston, engineer's office; Margaret Devine, deputy treasurer; Alice Denton, overseer of the poor; Hattie Hough, superintendent of schools; Eva Tyler, recorder.

COUNTY OFFICERS OF 1937-38

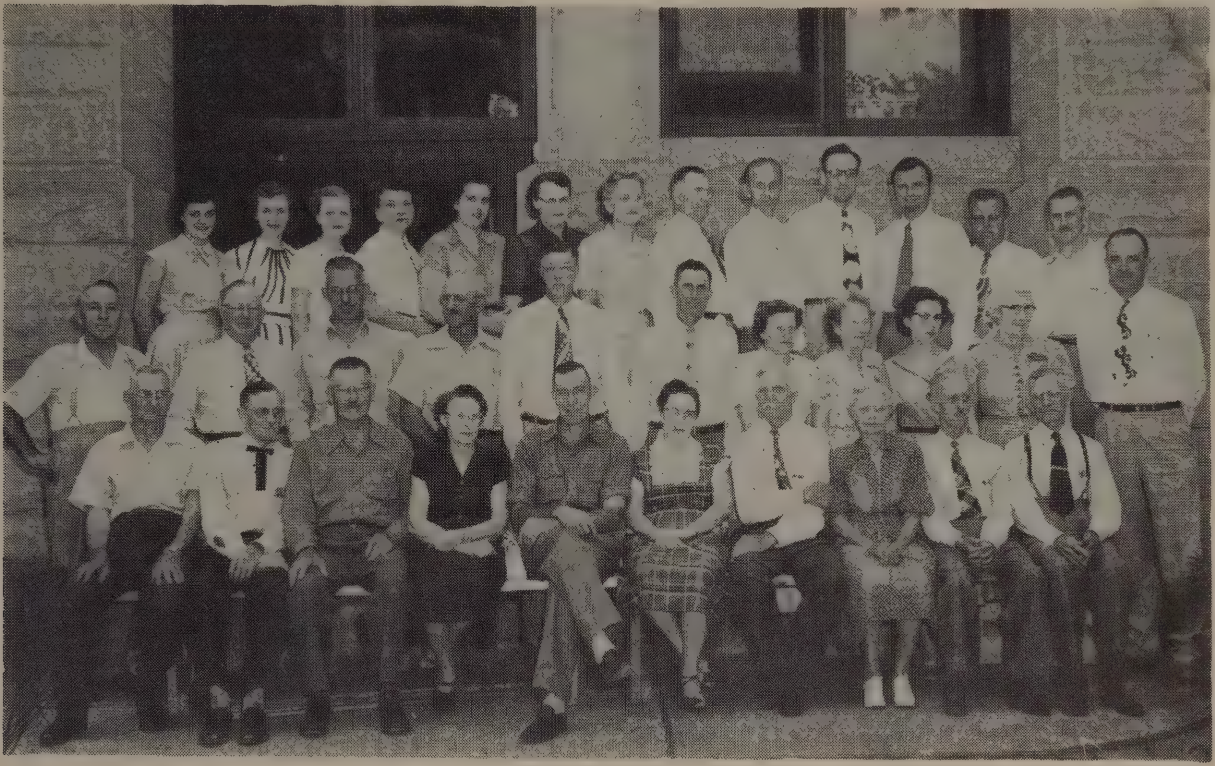
Front row: C. E. Longstreet, clerk of district court; John Conkel, sheriff; Evan J. Evans, George Stinemates and David Morgan, board of supervisors; W. S. Reiley, coroner; F. Y. Barnes, justice of the peace. Back row: Ruth Peterson, overseer of the poor; P. L. Hayzlett, justice of peace; Floyd M. Pratt, treasurer; Harold Bickford, attorney; A. G. Illingworth, recorder; Grant Falk, auditor; P. A. Michel, engineer; Lula B. Reed, sup't of schools.

Supreme Court

Two Montgomery county lawyers have been extended the high honor of serving on the Supreme Court of Iowa.

Horace Deemer was elected as a District Judge in 1886 and 1890. In 1894 Governor Jackson appointed him as a judge of the Supreme Court where he served for 28 years. As a citizen, the Judge always took a deep interest in things that pertain to the well-being of the community, whether of a business, social or educational nature. He was anxious that school children remember the history of our county so he, himself, for the first three years did the research, wrote the script, directed and narrated the pageant which was produced during the Monty-Festo. He may also be credited with writing Mr. Carnegie and interesting him in supplying the money to start the Red Oak Public Library.

Paul Richards, a native of Red Oak, was admitted to the Iowa bar in 1896. He was appointed county attorney in 1919. By 1923 his reputation for fairness had become known throughout the state and he was appointed Referee in Bankruptcy of the Western Division of the southern district of Iowa. In 1935, he became a Justice of the Supreme Court of Iowa where he served for six years. In 1937 the law school at Iowa City honored his ability by making him an Honorary Sergeant of Coif. The Richards law office begun by his father in 1867 has served the county for 86 years continuously and is one of the oldest in this area.



CENTENNIAL GREETINGS FROM . . .

Front row, left to right: Geo. E. Milledge, bailiff of grand jury; A. G. Illingworth, recorder; John W. Selders, county home steward; Maude L. Selders, county home matron; Everett Selders, asst. county home steward; Elsie Selders, asst. county home matron; Oscar Wenstrand, chr. soldiers and sailors relief com.; Xenia B. Dowhower, director social welfare; Harry P. Mayhew, county assessor; C. E. Longstreet, clerk district court.

Second row: Ray England, custodian; Zeph Morgan, bailiff; P. A. Michel, county engineer;; Justus B. Cleaver, supervisor; Conrad Ossian, supervisor; Willis McAlpin, supervisor; Juanita Tobias, director of county assistance; Margaret Devine, deputy auditor; Maxine Cleveland, adm. asst. county superintendent of schools; Lulu B. Reed, county superintendent of schools; Chet McCune, sheriff.

Third row: Carolyn Ossian, clerk treasurer's office; Lavone Tanner, steno. social welfare; Marjorie Huntsman, clerk engineer's office; Mildred Brown, clerk auditor's office; Phyllis Stebbins, deputy clerk district court; Myrtle Calhoun, p.a.w. social welfare; Eva Meyer, clerk grand jury; L. M. Srite, deputy sheriff; John I. Lundgren, auditor; R. John Swanson, county attorney; John F. Boeye, asst. county attorney; Delaine Sellergren, coronor; David J. Sholeen, treasurer.

Missing: Kathryn Falk, deputy treasurer; Ethel Richards, deputy recorder.

Montgomery County Officials 1953

Early Scene of Chautauqua Pavilion

The Chautauqua Age

The first Montgomery County Chautauqua was held June 29 through July 6, 1905, at the county fair grounds, in a tent having a capacity of three thousand. The tent and grounds were lighted by electricity. Season tickets sold at $1.50 and $2.00. There were lodging accomodations for those who wished to sleep on the grounds at 25c per night. Tents and lots rented from $2.50 to $6.00 for the season. Camp furniture could be rented. A dining hall was provided as well as a place where teams could be fed and cared for. Rates of one and one-third fare for round trip were given from railroad points within one hundred fifty miles of Red Oak. G. S. Dick was president of the Chautauqua Association, and Wm. Murchie, secretary.

The purpose of the Chautauqua was to bring to the people the best in lectures, music, instruction and good entertainment. Included on the program were America's best and brightest statesmen, orators, lecturers, educators, scientists and musicians.

The opening address was given by William Jennings Bryan, with his "Prince of Peace" address. Other famous names on the program included Jane Addams, the world-famed social settlement leader, Edith Henry Wallace of Des Moines, Governor Robert M. LaFollette of Wisconsin. Each weekday morning a Children's Hour was held, followed by a Bible address.

The collapse of the tent in 1907 made the demand imperative that there be a permanent auditorium erected. In 1908 Chautauqua Park was purchased for $750 and a permanent pavilion of steel construction was erected. This had a seating capacity from 3,500 to 5,000, and cost around $5,200.

Innes and his band appeared at the opening performance in the new pavilion. Gipsey Smith, world evangelist, preacher and lecturer also appeared on this program.

Chautauqua continued through 1929 with many notable people appearing throughout the years.

Red Oak Hospital

The first hospital in Red Oak was established in 1907 by four physicians, Drs. Gillmor, Lawrence, Seabloom and Reiley, in a building where later the Murphy Memorial Hospital had its beginning in 1931. The City Council of Red Oak in February 1931 accepted the bequest of Thos. D. Murphy and Ina C. Murphy, amounting to $50,000, and the Murphy Memorial Hospital was opened in the Gillmor Building, which had been previously operated as a hospital.

In 1941 a new hospital building was constructed, and was occupied on March 17, 1942. This building was made possible by a gift of $25,000 from Oscar and Margaret Shepard, and a community contribution of $18,000.

As the result of a local fund raising campaign, a new addition was constructed in 1949, and supplemented by a Federal hospital grant. This hospital is the first to be completed in Iowa under the provisions of Public Law 725. Impressive ceremonies marked the dedication of the completed Murphy Memorial Hospital on January 12, 1950.

The hospital at present has a capacity of fifty beds, and has been under the efficient administration of Miss Sophia Pieper, R. N. since February 1936.

Company M

Co. M. was organized about 1893. Red Oak, for about 14 years had a military organization known as Co. K. but in 1892 their company was mustered out of the service.

In August, 1893, a number of young men formed a temporary military organization and made application for membership in the Iowa National Guards. In October, two state officers were sent here to inspect the new company, with a view to mustering them in. They were so well satisfied that they enlisted the boys on the spot.

The Company has served in all wars since they were organized. Darwin Merritt was one of the two officers who lost their lives on the ill-fated battleship Maine when it was blown up in Havana harbor, therefore the people of Montgomery county had a special interest in the Spanish-American war.

During World War I the Company went to war with full strength of 250. They fought in the major campaigns at Belleau Woods, Argonne Forest, St. Michel and Swepps. There were over 160 casualties and 52 killed in action.

In World War II, Red Oak received nationwide publicity because of the large number of casualties in the European conflict. March 6, 1943 was a black day in the history of the community for more than one hundred telegrams arrived stating that boys were missing in action. In April the news was official that twenty-seven boys had been taken prisoners at Faid Pass. While this was probably the outstanding single action, yet Montgomery county boys served in every continent in every major battle of the war

OUR BUSINESS . . .

Continues to grow and each week brings us NEW CUSTOMERS as well as the old ones for WHICH WE ARE GRATEFUL.

We intend to treat EACH and EVERY ONE of you as we would like you to treat us were our positions reversed.

You as customers have done your part, and have by the large volume of business, enabled us to PAY YOU more for your POULTRY, EGGS, CREAM, etc. and sell you QUALITY MERCHANDISE at LOWER PRICES.

By working together as we have (helping to help each other) we have helped to put Red Oak on the map as the HIGHEST PRICED PRODUCE TOWN in this part of Iowa.

We promise our continued help at all times in the future.

We need your poultry, eggs and cream.

Martin & Sons

Phone 9100 **"Help Us to Help You"** **Red Oak, Iowa**

JARBO
Fred - Gerald
POULTRY - CREAM - EGGS
Poultry Dressing Specialty
Elliott, Iowa

CERAMICS AND PORCELAIN
Greenware and Supplies
Handmade Finished Articles.
MATILDA A. BUEHLER
1206 Eighth St., Red Oak Dial 4336

VAN'S PAINT STORE
AUTHORIZED MORRIS DEALER
Edward Vankat, owner
"Remove the Gloom from Every Room"
RED OAK'S MOST COMPLETE PAINT
AND WALLPAPER STORE
409 Reed St. Red Oak, Iowa
We Give S & H Green Stamps

F. E. West & Son
FURNITURE
COMPANY

Our 35TH YEAR

in Red Oak

Red Oak Schools Since 1859

The first schoolhouse in Red Oak was erected about 1859 and was located on West First Street near Nuckols Street. The first teacher of this school was Thomas Petty, and attendance averaged between twenty-five and thirty pupils.

Lincoln school came into existence in the year of 1871. A bell for this school was purchased for the sum of $125. The Lincoln school was in use until 1952 when it was abandoned for school purposes and sold to the City.

The North Ward, or Bancroft school was built in 1881. This building was used for years as an elementary school, but for the past few years was used as an industrial arts shop and is now to be razed to make room for a playground for the present new Bancroft school. The new Bancroft building was built in 1951-52. It includes four rooms.

The South Ward, or Jefferson school, was built in 1886. This building is still in use, but has been partly replaced by the new Jefferson, located on the east part of the same block and built in 1951-52. It includes five rooms.

The West Ward, or Washington school, was built in 1892. It is still in use as an elementary school, having been completely renovated and redecorated within the past few years.

The High school, or Webster as it was later called, built in 1885, was used as a high school until 1898 when another building for the high school was erected on the corner of Corning and Third Street. The Webster school then accomodated four elementary classes until the summer of 1951 when it was razed to make room for the new Webster building. This building includes seven rooms.

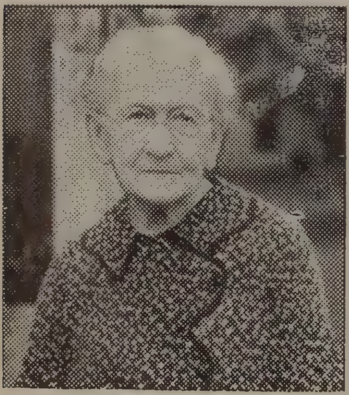
The present Junior High school, the building erected as a high school in 1898 on Corning and Third Streets, now houses the seventh annd eighth grades.

The present High school was built in 1916. The high school has, therefore, been located in four different buildings: first, in the Lincoln school from 1871 to 1885; second, at Webster school from 1885 to 1898; third, in the present Junior High school from 1898 to 1915; and fourth, to its present location from 1916 to present time.

A High school addition is in the process of completion at the present time and will house a gymnasium, industrial arts shop, agriculture room, vocal music room, and instrumental music quarters.

The Red Oak School System has grown from one small frame schoolhouse in 1859 to a high school, junior high and four elementary schools.

Taught 97 Years Ago



Sophronia W. Shank, was Montgomery county's first school teacher. She received her early schooling in Rhode Island, and came in a covered wagon in 1855. With her parents, she lived in a log cabin on land located in Pottawattamie county. In the next year, at fifteen, she opened her school in a private home near Climax in West township.

She spent her last years in the first frame house built in Red Oak. The Baptist church, of which she was a member, honored her on her 90th birthday.

According to the report of the County Auditor in 1870 the county had increased in population from 1,256 in the year 1850 to 5,924 in the year 1870.

Sanitarium Converted To Private School

Hamilton White attempted to boom Red Oak by establishing a sanitarium hotel on a hill south of town. Just beside the sanitarium was a spring whose water was noted for its purity and curative powers. An analysis showed it to be just as good as that at the Hot Springs. The Medical and Surgical Sanitarium Co. conducted the hotel with flattering success. Patients suffering from all chronic diseases came from long distances to receive treatment. A swimming pool for guests only was operated in connection with the sanitarium.

In the fall of 1903, Dr. Velura Powell and her mother opened a private school for Retarded Children in the old Sanatarium. Dr. Powell bought up the lots surrounding the building so that the school had sixty-five acres. The building was modernized with plumbing and steam heat.

In 1903 the school opened with just one pupil. In recent years enrollment has been from sixty to seventy, with pupils coming from the West Coast and as far east as Cleveland.

After forty year of service with retarded children, and having placed Red Oak on the map in this field, Dr. Powell retired and sold the school to Mr. Riley Nelson.

R. O. Class of 1890

Graduating Class of 1890: Horace Clark, Nell Bishop, Maud Hurlburt, Harry Brown, Florence Ockerson, Mary J. Gregg, Cora Stocksleger, Kate Kelly Schwinn, Clara Carey, McLean, Gordon Hayes, Addie Rena Harding, Hattie Blood and Mamie Thurston.

The dead body of Brewer Steinbrecher was found hanging in a brewery in 1886. He had claimed the prohibition law damaged him $32,000.

Benevolent, Protective Order of Elks

A COMMUNITY MINDED ORGANIZATION

Red Oak, Iowa, Lodge No. 1304

Organized
May 28, 1913

Present Home
Built in 1925

Luxuriously remodeled
for dignified
ritual observance and
pleasant social
activities in
1949

One of the finest small city Elks Homes in the United States.

We congratulate Montgomery County on the remarkable progress it has made during the past century. We are proud to have played our part in this splendid record for over forty years. We predict that nothing can stop the forward march of its industrious and intelligent citizens during the NEXT HUNDRED YEARS.

Whatever the need . . . and whenever it arises . . . Montgomery County knows it can depend upon the B. P. O. ELKS.

WE KNOW HOW

BON-TON CLEANERS

Serving Red Oak
4
27 Years

Industrial Building — Store Fronts
Electric Floor Surfacing

Ives G. Boyington, Contractor

Shop 113 S. Fourth Street

Heavy Concrete Work — Plate Glass
Fine Cabinet Work

Air Conditioning **Free Parking**

at

LITTLE SUPER MARKET

On Hy. 48 in Red Oak, Iowa

Try Us for Everything in the
Grocery Line.

"WE HAVE THE BEST OF EVERYTHING"

CONGRATULATIONS

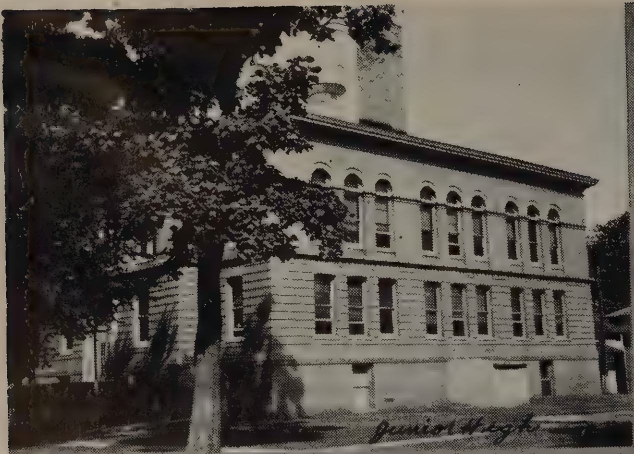
TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY ON THEIR

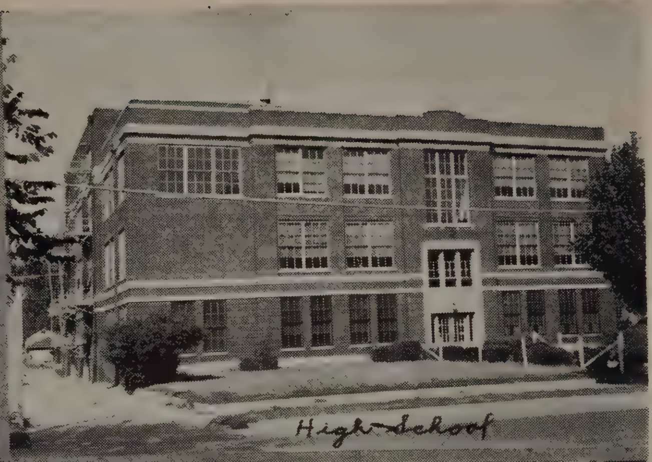
100TH BIRTHDAY.

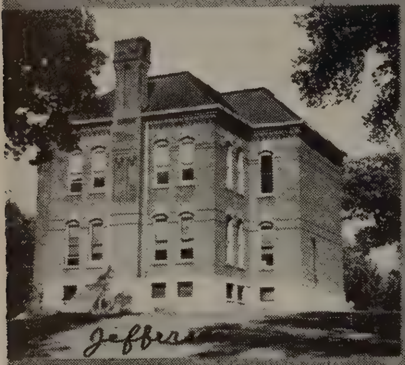
BARR'S TAVERN

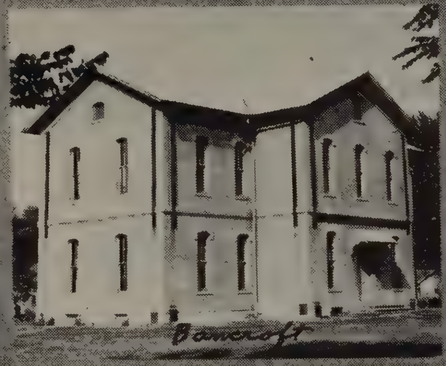
Russell Barr, Prop.

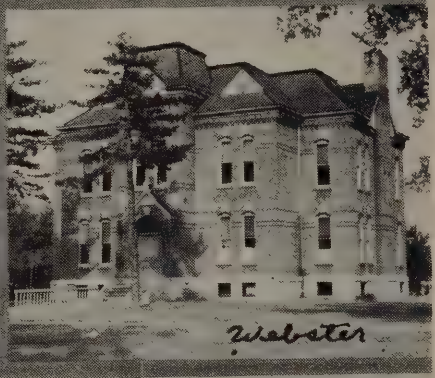
Elliott Iowa

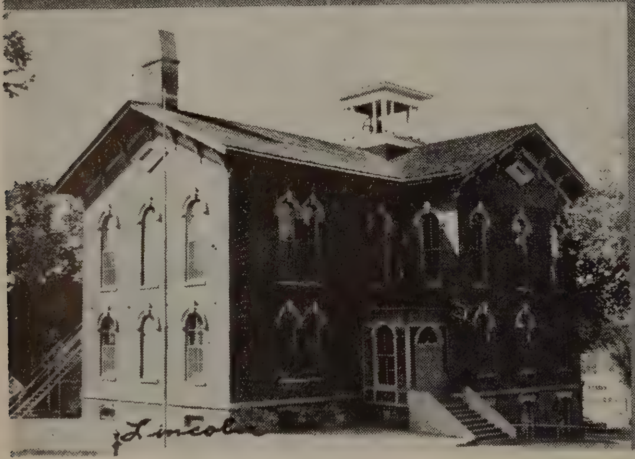

Junior High

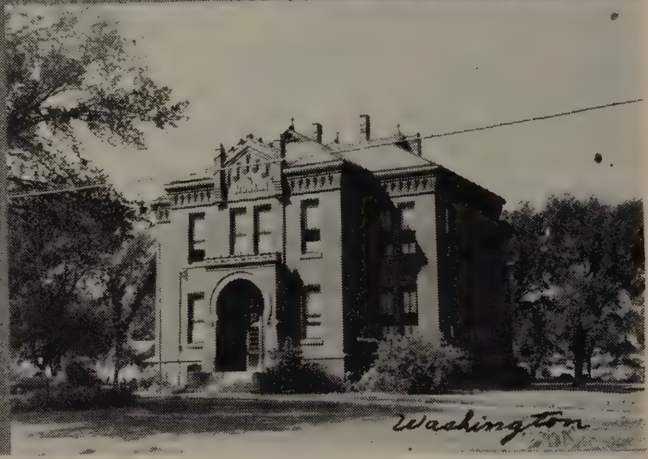

High School





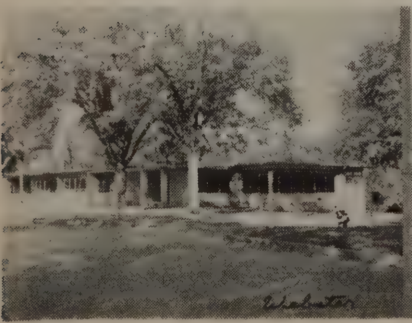


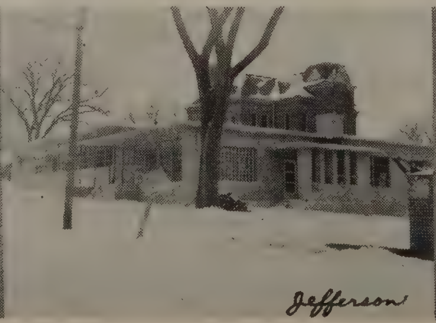


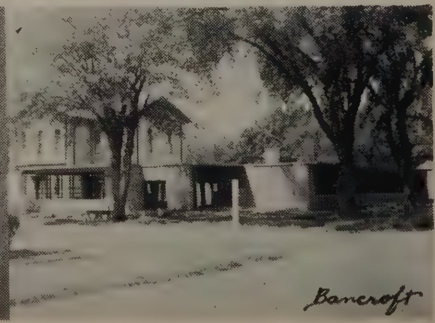

Washington

SCHOOLS — OLD AND NEW

Above are pictured the schools in Red Oak before the extensive building program started in 1950. At the present time the old buildings in use are the Junior High, High School, Jefferson (temporarily) and Washington. The Jefferson Bancroft and Webster buildings have been replaced by the three new edifices below. The Lincoln building was purchased by the City of Red Oak. A gymnasium is presently being constructed and adjoins the High School building.

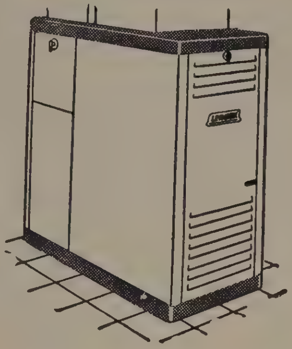






YEAR ROUND
INDOOR COMFORT

with the new
LENNOX



All Season Aire Flow
Air Conditioner

The Latest in
Modern Comfort

More Families Buy
LENNOX
Than Any Other
Make.

IRWIN &
CORNELISON

Red Oak, Iowa

We Service All Makes of
Warm Air Heating.

1853 CENTENNIAL 1953

Greetings to Montgomery County
On Your 100th Annivevrsary
May You Continue to Prosper and Grow
In the Future As You Have in the Past

Here at the Red Cross Drug Store we are proud of our growth in the past years and we are extremely thankful for the patronage extended us by the people of this community.

It has been our pleasure for the past forty-three years to serve the people of Red Oak and surrounding territory to the best of our ability, with quality merchandise, at the lowest possible prices consistent with good business principles.

We will continue this policy and hope that we may serve you in the future as in the past.

Red Cross Drug Store

South Side of Square
RED OAK, IOWA

Carl V., Carpenter

JOHNSON'S

701 Maple St., Red Oak, Iowa

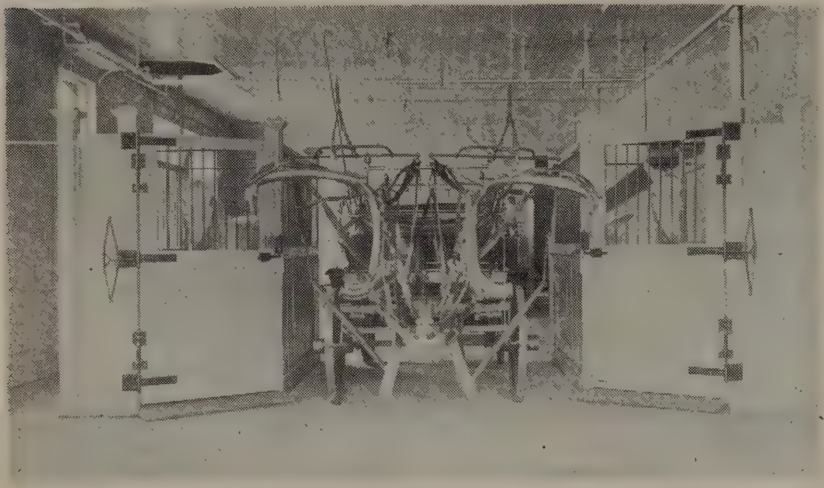
Elsie, Baking

For Insulation or Metal Combined
Storm Windows and Screens
See

LLOYD BROWER

Dial 3692 408 Maple St.
Red Oak, Iowa

Red Oak Fire Department Modernizes



In Early 1912 "Dude and Dandy" would hear the fire gong and be off in a minute.

After the East side of the square burned on Dec. 23, 1875 a fire departmennt was immediately organized. The first regular meeting was held on Jan. 7, 1876. The company was operated in two divisions. At this time there were 67 members. The first festival was given by the Firemen on Mar. 2, 1877. They cleared $181.05. By 1903 there were three companies with 84 members. These companies will be remembered as the Harris Hook and Ladder Co., the Fisher Hose Co., and the Clipper Hose Co. At this time a committee was appointed to solicit funds to purchase harness, horses and wagon. This was done with the understanding that the city supply two men at the station at all times. At that time Pac and Pac were purchased from John Blue on the recommendation of E. E. Powell. Harry Maloney was then fire chief. Pac and Pac were taken to the different races and always won first place at the Southwest Iowa tournaments.

Pac and Pac were sold in 1912. After that three other teams were used and then in 1918 all the equipment was motorized.

Under the leadership of Chas. Luppold as chief a new Reo chemical truck was purchased in 1918 and a new Reo Pumper truck in 1919.

In April 1927 Chas. Luppold retired and Clarence Stephenson became chief. In 1929 the American LaFrance 750-gallon pumper was purchased. It is still in use. In 1931 the fire station had its "face lifted" and the front of the building was remodeled. In 1941 and Infant Iron Lung, Trailer and various first aid equipment was added. In 1942 a Ford 500 pumper was added. By 1947 there had been many floods so our farsighted fire department secured a boat and outboard motor. It was not long before it was put to use in the worst flood of Red Oak's history in June 1947. With all this new equipment, the department was bursting at the seams so a new addition was built on in 1948. Soon after this the first emergency unit truck was delivered in Sept. 1948.

The department now numbers about 30 members—two paid and 28 volunteers. All of these have passed the Red Cross Advanced Course in First Aid. The present fire chief is Neil Frank.

Many organizations have cooperated in furnishing the following equipment which is available for the use of anyone in the county at no cost other than transportation:

Four wheel-chairs given by the Legion, Red Cross and Mr. Byers.

Five hospital beds, donated by BPW and the Red Cross.

Four polio-walkers, courtesy of BPW, Legion Auxiliary and Polio Fund.

One polio heat packer presented by BPW.

Many organizations and individuals have cooperated with the Eagles, their Auxiliary, the Red Oak Express and the Chamber of Commerce in securing the new, larger emergency unit truck which was delivered August 15, 1953.

Disasters

Dec. 23, 1875—East side of the public square burned out.

Sept. 1882—Houghton and Bishop Opera House at the northeast corner of the square burned. The loss was $25,000.

Apr. 24, 1902—The entire south side of the square burned at a loss of over $200,000.

June, 1902—Red Oak Creek went on the rampage. It was three or four blocks wide and covered the square. Much new lumber had been hauled to the south side of the square for rebuilding and much was carried down-stream. Later the stream was straightened relieving the danger.

June 1916—Nishnabotna flood.

June 1947—The worst flood in the city's history.

There have been several fires disastrous to local businesses.

1953 Fire Department and Equipment

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS

Where did you go so fast? It does not seem possible that I have spent almost half a century in the ROOFING BUSINESS, and the last 25 years running a paint and wallpaper store. Our business has grown each year, this is due mostly to **COOK'S PAINTS** "Best for Wear and Weather" which have become so popular in this vicinity, which only goes to prove, QUALITY LASTS LONGER THAN PRICE.

Thanks everybody, be seeing you.

Carl Lagergren, owner

LAGERGREN PAINT & ROOFING CO.

Red Oak, Iowa

107 Washington Ave. Dial 3212

**Congratulations Montgomery County
on your
100th Anniversary.**
We salute the old timers and welcome
the newcomers.

- Portraits of Distinction.
- Cameras and Supplies.

MARTIN STUDIO
& CAMERA SHOP

405 Reed Street Red Oak, Iowa

Ruth Davis Beauty Shop

1924 - 1953
Prompt and Courteous Service
Phone 3611
Ruth Davis, owner 421 Reed St.

National 5c - 10c - $1.00 Store

Best Variety Merchandise
at Lowest Prices
Red Oak Iowa

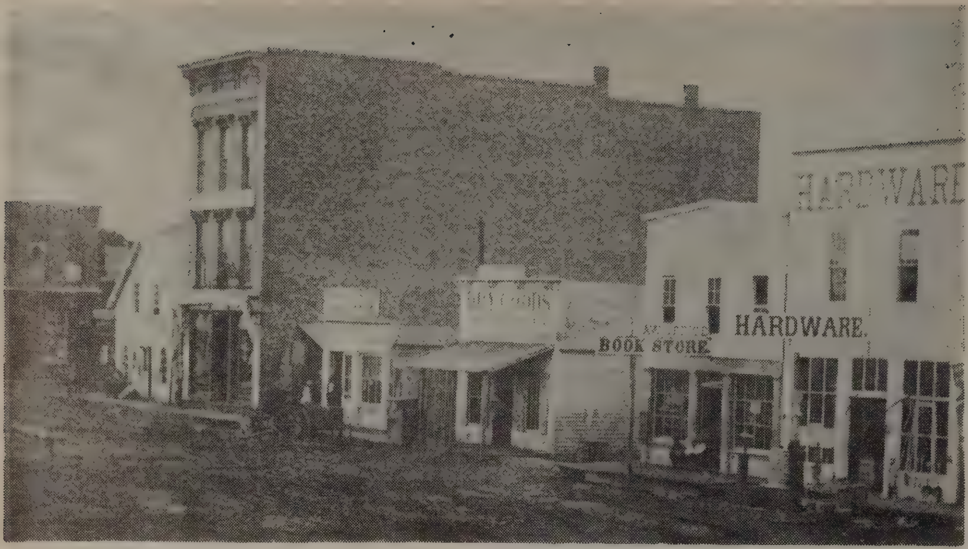
THE SUN

Red Oak, Iowa
Dependable Family Newspaper Since 1877

Commercial Printing

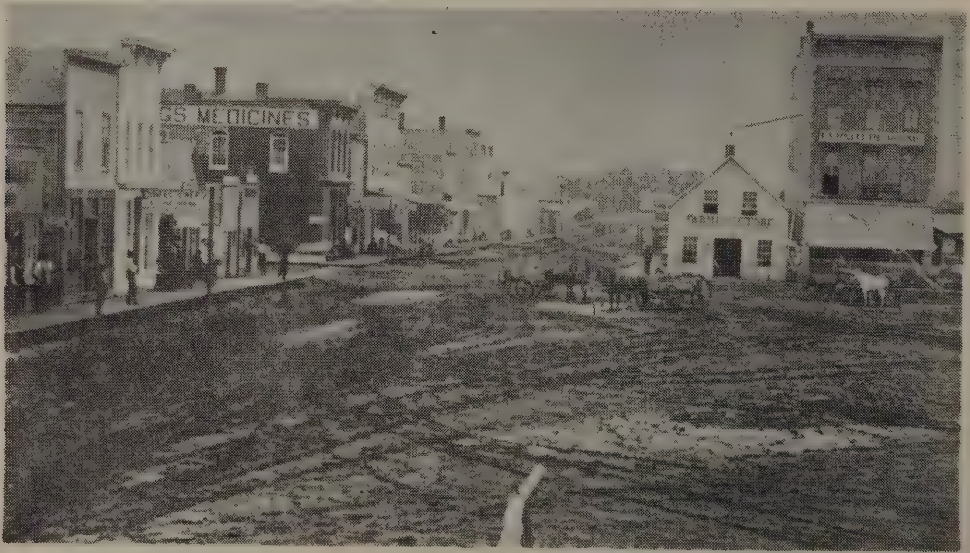
Loomis Abstract Company

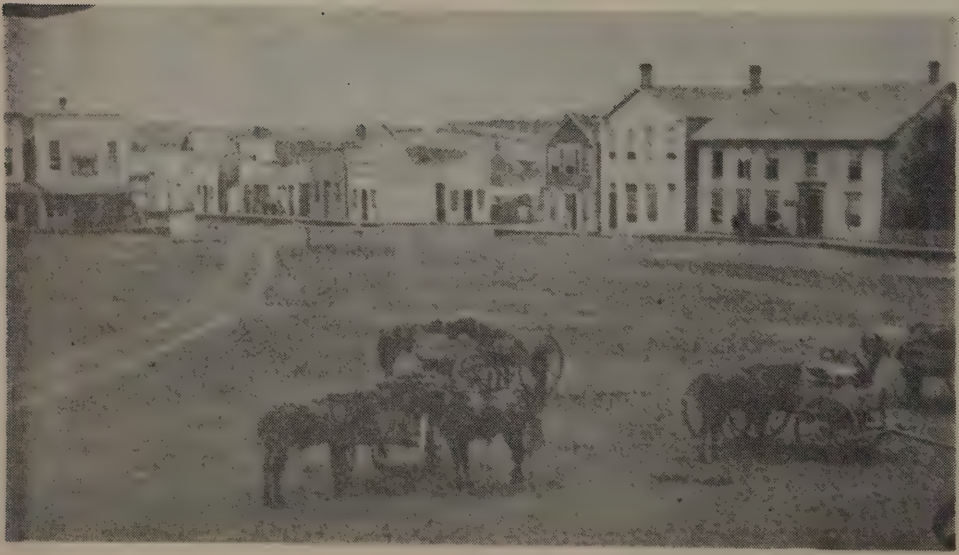
Established 1874
JOHN R. LOOMIS


HARDWARE
BOOK STORE
HARDWARE.

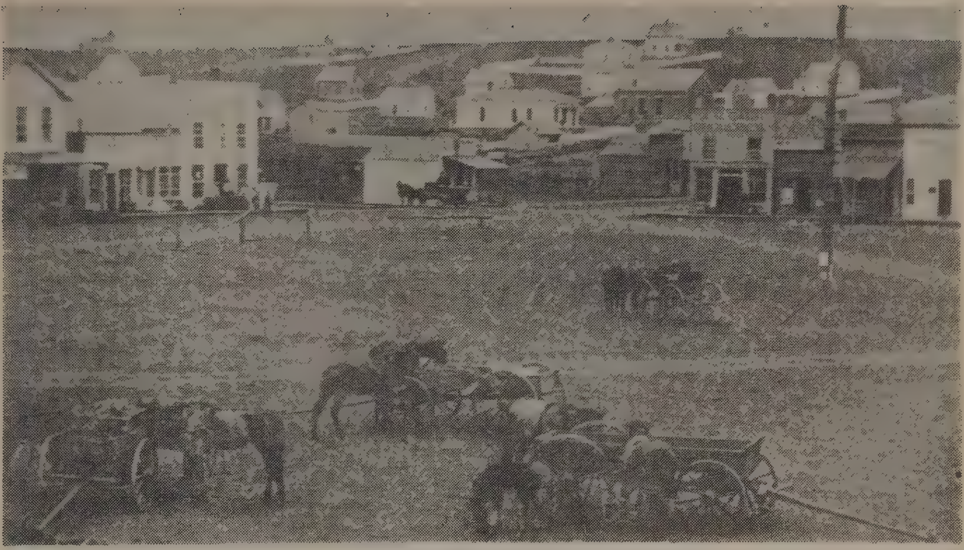
West Side
Red Oak
Square
1870

Southwest
Corner
Red Oak
Square
1870


GS MEDICINES



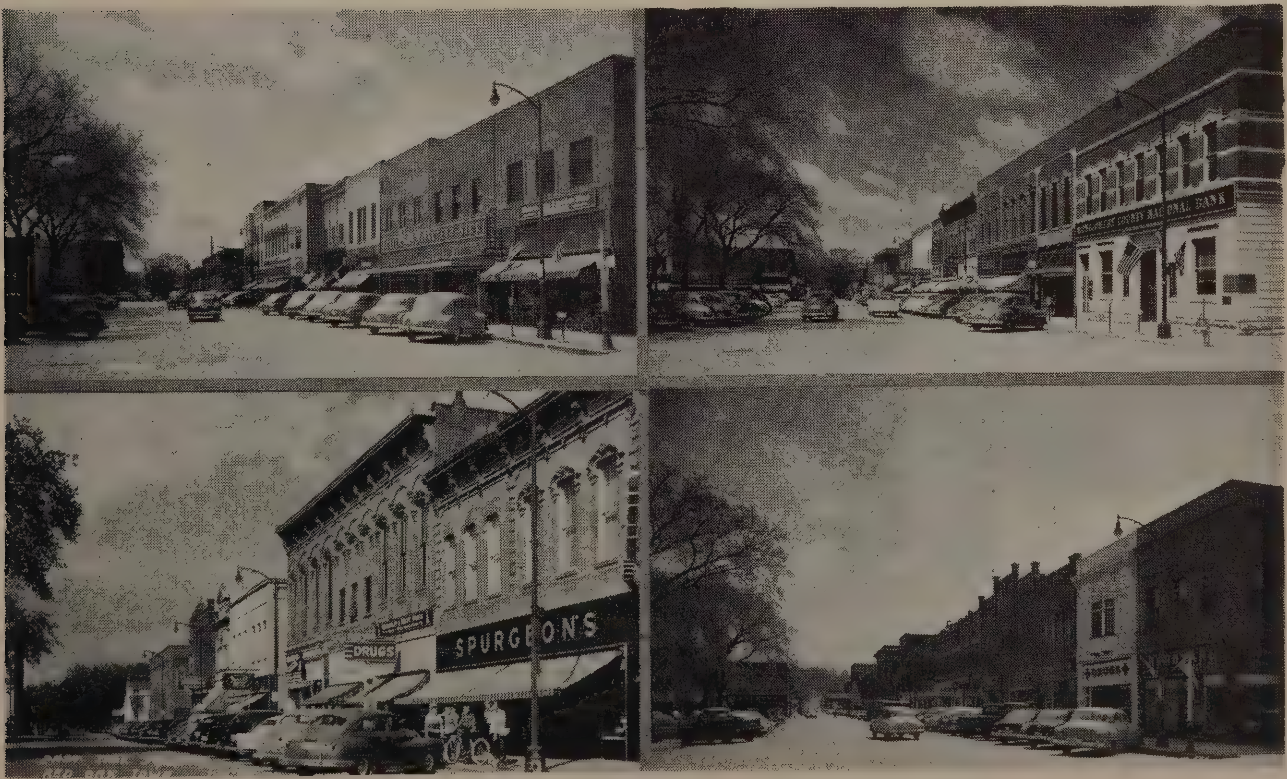
Southeast
Corner
Red Oak
Square
1870



Northeast Corner Red Oak Square 1870

Red Oak received its name from the little stream that divides the town. It in turn was named Red Oak because of the numerous oaks grown on its eastern banks. In the fall they were such vivid colors that the color became associated with the tree.

From a Village to a City



Montgomery County National Bank

RED OAK, IOWA

Member of

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Federal Reserve System

DANNEN
"Save with Hoggo"

Phone 2561

For Quality Feed

or

Ingredient

In BAG or BULK

See

DANNEN
"Pigs Grow on Piggo"

DANNEN MILLS

Red Oak, Iowa

We Buy Grain

Selby Arch Preservers and Air Step Shoes

. . . For Ladies

Wright Arch Preservers - Roblee - Nunns

. . . For Men

Claussner and Phoenix Hosiery

. . . For Ladies

Buster Brown Shoes

. . . For Children

X-Ray Shoe Fitting

Brown's Shoe Fit Co.

J. E. LARSON & SON

General Building Contractors

Red Oak, Iowa

Dial 4119 Dial 3598

WALES STORE

Greetings to our patrons and friends. We appreciate your business. May we continue to serve you?

MRS. CLARENCE WEDELL

RUTH'S BEAUTY SHOP

Hair Styling for Every Type . . . Permanents for Your Loveliness.

Dial 3720 811 Valley

RUTH SMITH CARY

Centennial Week Events

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

"CENTENNIAL RELIGIOUS DEDICATION DAY"

Rev. Asa Popp, Chairman

Morning: Centennial Observance in all Churches in Montgomery County.

Theme: "One Hundred Years of Religious Progress."

7:00 A. M. Civil Air Patrol Flight into Red Oak. C.A.P. Flight Breakfast at Airport with pilots attending local church services in morning. Tours of the city scheduled for flyers.

Afternoon: Open House in all churches. Sunday School Class Reunions.

Evening: Centennial Religious Observance. Outdoor Vesper Service at Football Stadium. Dr. E. Stanley Jones, speaker. 8:00 P. M. Music by massed choirs of all churches, 450 voices. Brief remarks by principle faiths representatives. Hymn singing by audience and choir.

Sponsored by Montgomery County Ministerial Association.

Red Oak High School Band.

ALL DAY: Historical Window Displays viewing.

Subject to Change without Notice.

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

"MERCHANT'S HOSPITALITY DAY"

ALL DAY: Viewing of Historical Window Displays in the County.

ALL DAY: Special 100th Anniversary sales events in retail stores throughout Montgomery County.

9:00 to 5:00: Registration of visitors in Centennial Headquarters.

2:00 P. M.: Mammoth Historical Parade:

Theme: "Progress Throughout the Years."

Prizes for best floats and vehicles.

4:00 P. M.: Opening of Carnival—Grand American Shows.

Subject to Change without Notice.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

"INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS DAY"

George Harshaw, Chairman

9:00 to 5:00 P. M.: Registration of visitors in Centennial Headquarters.

ALL DAY: Viewing of Historical Window Displays in stores throughout Montgomery County.

ALL DAY: Open House in all Red Oak Industries. To be announced.

2:00 p. m. to 11:30 p. m.: Grand American Shows . . . Carnival.

8:30 p. m. to 11 p. m.: Street Dance.

Subject to Change without Notice.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

"YOUNG AMERICA DAY"

Ralph Herron, Chairman

ALL DAY: Viewing of Historical Window Displays throughout Montgomery County.

9:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.: Registration of visitors at Centennial Headquarters.

2:00 p. m. to 11:30 p. m.: Grand American Shows—Carnival.

2:00 to 4:00 P. M.: Open House at Public Library for Children. Children's Program.

10:30 A. M.: Amateur Show.

7:30 p. m.: Presentation of Dignitaries prior to Pageant.

8:00 p. m.: Premier performance of "CAVALCADE OF A CENTURY." A mammoth historical pageant-spectacle featuring a cast of more than 400 residents of the county in a 1½ hour show under the stars. Governor Beardsley will crown the Queen in the Prologue of the Pageant.

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S GAMES TO BE ARRANGED.

Subject to Change Without Notice.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

"LADIES' DAY"

ALL DAY: Viewing of Historical Window Displays throughout Montgomery County.

9:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.: Registration of Visitors at Centennial Headquarters.

2:00 to 11:30 p. m.: Grand American Shows—Carnival.

2:30 p. m.: Judging of Monty Maids. Games.

8:00 p. m.: Second performance of "CAVALCADE OF A CENTURY" at Red Oak High School Football Stadium.

Queen crowned by dignitary.

Subject to Change Without Notice.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

"OLD TIMERS"

Jack Richards, Chairman

ALL DAY: Viewing of Historical Window Displays throughout Montgomery County.

9:00 a. m. to 4:00 p. m.: Registration of Visitors at Centennial Headquarters.

11:30 to 2:00 p. m.: Old Timers Picnic Lunch.

2:00 p. m. to 11:30 p. m.: Grand American Shows—Carnival.

2:30 p. m.: Judging of Monty Woolies. Prizes for best beards, etc. Games.

7:30 p. m.: Swedish Dancers at Pageant Grounds.

8:00 p. m.: Third performance of "CAVALCADE OF A CENTURY" with dignitary crowning Queen in Prologue.

Mrs. H. C. Houghton will crown the Queen.

Subject to Change Without Notice.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

"AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY"

Ralph Peterson, Chairman

ALL DAY: Viewing of Historical Window Displays throughout Montgomery County.

ALL DAY: Registration of Visitors at Centennial Headquarters.

2:00 p. m.: Mammoth Mardi Gras Parade. Prizes for three best entries.

4:30 to close: Great American Shows—Carnival.

7:30 p. m.: Presentation of dignitaries prior to Pageant.

8:00 p. m.: Fourth & final performance of "A CAVALCADE OF A CENTURY." Crowning of Queen by dignitary during Prologue.

IN THE EVENT ANY PERFORMANCE OF THE PAGEANT IS CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER IT WILL BE PRESENTED SUNDAY EVENING, AUGUST 30th.

Subject to Change Without Notice.

Montgomery County Centennial Queen Contest Candidates

RED OAK

Pat Carlson
Miriam Hassan
Virgelene Shogren
Helen Jolas
Pauline Carlson
Marianne Kolterman
Judy Corbin
Carolyn Goranson
Mary Phillip
Marilyn McKie
Betty Gammell
Duanne Kuester
Jackie Hull
Mary Ann Edmund
Jean Jensen
Ruby Strom
Mary Parker
Mary Ross
Barbara Linn
Arlene Howard
Jean Swanson
Phyllis Anderson
Virginia Halbert
Marilyn Jackson
Sue Kurtenback

STANTON

Dorothy Requist
Joanne Porter

VILLISCA

Joan Palmquist
Lou Ann Patterson
Janet Noble

ELLIOTT

Shirley Templeton
Margaret Thompson

ESSEX

Ann Quist

"CAVALCADE OF A CENTURY"

Mammoth Historical Pageant - Spectacle

August 26 - 29
8 p. m.

Red Oak High School
Football Stadium

Presented by the Montgomery County Centennial Corp.
Staged and Directed by Donald F. Perry
for the John B. Rogers Producing Co., Fostoria, Ohio

"PROLOGUE"

The fanfare of trumpets and the roll of drums herald the arrival of the Centennial Cadets, Sailor Girls, Color Guards, Mounted Knights, Housewives and Homemakers, Miss Columbia and The States. All are summoned to pay homage to The Centennial Queen, the Official Hostess and members of the Queen's Royal Court. Following the stirring Coronation ceremonies, procession moves on to make way for the Grand Dramatic Spectacle.

EPISODE 1—INTRODUCTION

"PARADE OF PROGRESS"

The scope of progress through the century is in the introduction to the story of Montgomery County. From the earliest days man has found a way to transport his goods. The Indian squaw pulled her travois with a horse, then came the covered wagons of the early white man. The farm wagons, stage coaches, early autos, trains, and planes. History moves fast.

EPISODE 2

"FIRST AMERICANS"

Traces of prehistoric man have been found in our region, but our story begins with the historic American Indian. It was in this land of theirs that the copper colored sons of the forest hunted, feasted, and followed pursuits of free children of nature . . . warring when intruded upon and closing the conflict with a peacepipe. An Indian Princess performs the Green Corn Dance with lighted torches to appease the Gods.

EPISODE 3

"FIRST SETTLERS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY"

The first white man to settle with his family in Montgomery County was John Ross, who came to settle in the year 1849. His brother James, and his family, were the second settlers. The arrival of James is depicted as they later gather for the evening meal and praise God for His Blessings.

EPISODE 4

"MORE SETTLERS ARRIVE"

The creaking of the covered wagons ceased, and the occupants begin piling out. This has been a long journey. Soon there is the bustle of activity as a camp is made. The new settlers are greeted by those who have already settled. Although these early pioneers lived lives of danger and hard work, they enjoyed entertainment as we do today . . . and when the bow was drawn across the strings, toes began a-tappin' and all gathered round . . . it was a "bee" for the men in the afternoon with a grand supper, and then a "Hoe Down" in the evening.

EPISODE 5

"ON THE TRAIL"

The new day arrives and our sturdy pioneer friends continue on their journey westward. Some of those in the wagon train remain to make this their home.

EPISODE 6

"THE COUNTY IS ORGANIZED"

First Election

As the lights of the past grow brighter we find ourselves assembling for the first election held in 1853. Eighteen votes were cast at the home of John Harris. After an exciting election Mrs. Harris treated all to a dinner where the newly elected officials were honored.

EPISODE 7

"READIN' 'RITIN' AND 'RITHMATIC"

A representative scene of one of the early schools. The teacher is seen arranging the classroom for the day's business. Ah! there are some of the early birds. The boys play their games and the girls play theirs. What a far cry it is from the early log schools to our beautiful buildings of today.

EPISODE 8
"REMEMBER THE SABBATH"

Today there are many faiths in our community . . . a community where democracy reigns in religion as in politics, and everyone worships according to the dictate of his own heart. It is with this thought in mind and with no regard to any one particular faith, we present this representative scene.

EPISODE 9
"IN ANSWER TO THE CALL"

The rumblings of the Civil War are upon the county. On July 3, 1861 a general order was issued to the officers and companies of the Iowa Volunteer Militia, in the counties of Page, Taylor, Adams, and Montgomery to meet at Clarinda and thus a group of men leave Montgomery with a dramatic portrayal here of their departure.

EPISODE 10
"REBELLION"

Abraham Lincoln's prayer for peace is the stirring background in a forceful tableau.

EPISODE 11
"RED OAK BECOMES THE COUNTY SEAT"

The first meeting of the County Officials in Red Oak, which had become the new county seat, having been moved from Frankfort. In January of 1866 the courthouse building itself was moved from Frankfort, but a bad blizzard developed and the men moving it were forced to abandon it to save themselves. The history books state that "the Montgomery County Courthouse was lost in a storm on the lone prairie." Not a man in the county could locate it for days after the storm.

EPISODE 12
"THE IRON HORSE"

On November 24, 1869 the first railroad train arrived in Montgomery County and it was a festive occasion. A large group awaits its exciting arrival and they celebrate by forming a colorful torchlight parade.

EPISODE 13
"BIKES, BUSTLES, AND MUSTACHES"

The days of bikes, bustles, and mustaches! The Great Gay Nineties! Now Montgomery County entered into one of the most colorful and undoubtedly the gayest period in the history of her growth. This is a big picnic day in the county and a group from the Thos. D. Murphy Co. are at the outing. The bathing beauties are a hit as is the local baseball team.

EPISODE 14
"THE WARS"

In dramatic tableau World War I is portrayed. The flag raising at Iwo Jima lives again in tribute to service men of all generations.

EPISODE 15
"FINALE"

Awe-inspiring climax to 100 years in the history of the county. To the great story of Iowa, Montgomery County has contributed one of the most colorful chapters; to the great American ideals for which Iowa stands, she has given of her blood. As we review the panorama of our history, however, it is not to boast. Rather are we humbled that the past has bequeathed to us so rich a heritage and it is in this spirit that we face forward to meet the challenge of a changing world, striving toward the great Principles of Freedom, Peace, and Progress for all the world.

CENTENNIAL UNDERWRITERS

These individuals and firms very generously underwrote the fund necessary to finance the original operation of the Montgomery County Centennial Corporation.

Safeway Stores	$100.00
Iowa Power & Light Co.	$100.00
Express Publishing Co.	$200.00
Don Gell Motor Co.	$100.00
Belt Implement Co.	$ 50.00
Galloway Buick	$100.00
Faunce's Store	$100.00
Montgomery County National Bank	$200.00
Peterson Appliance Co.	$100.00
Peterson Motor Co.	$100.00
Houghton State Bank	$200.00
Farmers Mercantile Co.	$200.00
John Kolterman	$100.00
Engquist Insurance	$100.00
Fox-Finley Chevrolet Co.	$100.00
Ko-Z-Aire Products, Inc.	$200.00
Grace Oil Co.	$100.00
L. V. Bradley	$100.00
J. C. Penney Co.	$100.00
Swanson Clothing	$150.00
Dannen Mills, Inc.	$100.00
Bell Telephone Co.	$100.00
C. R. Mueller, Grant	$ 15.00
Earl Spiker, Grant	$ 15.00
J. F. Mueller, Grant	$ 15.00
Grant Electric, Grant	$ 15.00
Roy Westerlund	$100.00
Brown's Shoe Fit	$100.00
Evans-Seeman Beverage Co.	$100.00
Thos. D. Murphy Co.	$100.00
Ideal Pharmacy	$100.00
Securities Acceptance	$100.00
Montgomery County Farm Bureau	$100.00
Spurgeon Mercantile Co.	$100.00
Hunts Market	$100.00
Connor's, Inc.	$100.00

Characters in Centennial Cast

NARRATORS

BILL ANDERSON, Stanton

THELMA ANDERSON, Stanton

RUTH SHIELDS, Elliott

MERRILL OLSON, Red Oak

RUTH J. OLSON, Red Oak

TOMMY JOLAS, Red Oak

ELLIOTT

Zearl Hallcock
George Dewitt
Dean Morgan
George Cornish
Karen Reynolds
Janice Carlisle
Laurel Brown
Connie Kenning
Kathleen Mullen
Ardith Lynn
Richard Kelly
Jo Ann Eshelman
Ann Buckner
Sharon Downey
Sarah Shaw
Jerry Jarboe
Gerald Jarboe
Thelma Jarboe
Ross Sandquist
Doris Sandquist
Diane Sandquist
Dale Carlisle
Paul Gammell
Kenneth Peterson
Bob Kleast
Richard Goettsch
Lyle Reynolds
Gail Reynolds
Vernon Griffin
Paul Carlisle
Aaron Griffin
Dallas Carlisle
Carol Griffin
Sharon Peterson
Carolyn Peterson
Paula Gammell
Linda Gammell
Florence Griffin
Inez Carlisle
Ruth Peterson
Marge Smith
Mildred Gammell
Clarabelle Carlisle
Tim Casey
Denny Reynolds
Audrey Ames
Richard Stewart
Leo M. Casey
Clifford Holtmyer
Roy Ashby
George Lewis
Dorothy Gammell

RED OAK

Pearl Billings
Carol Dahl
Phyllis Danielson
Doris Yokel
Carolyn Carlson
Elsie Slump
Elizabeth Holmes
Joanne Stuvick
Jeanette Peterson
Bonnie Brown
Kathleen Lorence
Jean Youngberg
Phyllis Dobbs
Grace Gutschenritter
Carol Horner
Gweneth Ross
Betty Bergren
Beverly Hartstack
Janet Gossard
Winifred Streitenberger
Jo Ann Allen
Pamela Hutchings
Wendla Falk
Gladys Dodson
Gertie Nimrod
Viola Lundgren
Ruth Landstrom
Gladys Moore
Ruby Black
Lorraine Johnson
Nina Pollard
Verna Erickson
Anna W. Swanson
Elvera Kasell
Gunhild Johnson
Frances Magneson
Mabel Johnson
Laura Allquist
Gladys Bergsten
Louise Bergren
Deanna Viner
Donna Viner
Janet Sue Barr
Shirley Ann Marsden
Karen Norris
Ellen Waltz
Alicemary Waltz
Annette Nelson
Beverly Larson
Rozella Youngberg
Marlene Cary
Darlene Johnson
Janet Andrews
Donna Lindell
Ralph Olson
Clarence Hassen
Marvin Maxwell
William Horner
Marvin Bergsten
Ronald Gasson
Jerry Bergren
Roy Viner
Dale Nelson
Don Norris
Lisle Shires
Patricia Thiel
Deanna Groves
Carol Loeltz
Marilyn Latta
June Lindgren
Betty Turner
Diane Seastrom
Betty Gustafson
Ramona Boan
Shirley Green
Gretchen Schmidt
Amy Halbert
Barbara Lundgren
Dorothy Mullen
Clara Bloom
Florence Hilding
Jean Carlson
Dora Carlson
Alice Peterson
Minnie Neifert
Jon Waltz
Charles Hough
Steven Johnson
Danny McCrary
Bobbie Fields
Bobbie Houghton
Marshall Victor
Herman Figley
Susan Victor
Connie Hatfield
Dorothy Alden
Mary Jo Alden
Mary Lou McMillan
Royce Marsh
Martha McCrary
Susan Oakleaf
Sandra Ossian
Ethel Betsinger
Eva Manley
Orpha Johnson
Nancy Billings
Dorothea Bruce
Helen Smith
Vivian Albaugh
Joan Ashby
Beth Gustafson
Ann Pfeiffer
Marjorie Boyington
Carolyn Bolton
Shirley Pratt
Virginia Halbert
Edna Porter
Millie Tuttle
Carol Johnson
Gene Albaugh
C. O. Betsinger
Glen Billings
Robert Berggren
Dr. O. E. Smith
Ives Boyington
Melvin Berlin
Dale Springer
C. E. Tuttle
Claude Ashby
Ogden Belt
N. F. Wilkins
M. P. Herkenrath
John Tebrinke
Patty Pratt
Connie Halvin
Donna Betsinger
Nancy Tuttle
Jacqueline Smith
Sharon Porter
Jane Ann Wilkins
Margie Allison
Kathleen Tebrinke
Gary Albaugh
Mick Albaugh
Douglas Billings
Dennis Halvin
Jerry Tuttle
Larry Porter
Robert Danbom
Carroll Danbom
Colleen White
Bert Thomas
Minnie Thomas
Charles Pleak
Maurine Pleak
Jon Petersen
Lyle Pleak
Ray Pleak
Gary Kelsay
Dick Petersen
Dianne Petersen
Ruth Milledge
U. A. Kelsay
Bruce Van Druff
L. B. Petersen
Hugh Milledge
H. E. McMillan
Mary Jo Van Druff
Betty Milledge
Dorothy Petersen
Dorothy McMillan
Rachel Windorn
Stella Kelsay
Lydia Jensen
Hazel Barnes
Helen Bass
Gertrude Miller
Anna Rinehart
Tora Peck
Margaret Bazar
Minnie Herbert
Patience Rose
Bertha Mealy
Gena Powell
Ruth Triplett
Leota Teeples
Sophia Pieper
Evelyn Kapple
Bonnie Boll
Louise Artz
Clarence Streitenberger
Curtis Sederburg
Dean Sandquist
Uel A. Kelsay
Ray Beals
Tom Ballard
Carl B. Robinson
Jack Mathews
Tom Kelsay
L. V. Bradley
Rea Laflin
H. A. Nease
Charles Jackson
Frank Bazar
Vernon Long
Ray Lyster
Ray Lasley
Lawrence Newman
Roy Kapple
Clarence Mannasmith
Terry Kapple
Richard Kapple
Ann Dunfee
Kay Beals
Cynthia Laflin
Carolyn Nelson
Janet Bass
Cheryl Triplett
Nancy Kapple
Lester Cozad
Fred Streitenberger
Gordon Streitenberger
Jo Ann Gleason
Kathryn Comstock
Marlyn Fort
Darleen West
Sherry Brower
Judy Crowder
Dolores Hanson
Jean Jensen
Arlene Howard
Darry Lundgren
Andy Sattro
Leland West
Stanley Bennett
Max Phillips
Dennis Bastron
Robert Bruce
Marion Ratliff
Gladys Ogden
Messie M. Back
Hattie Jackson
Edna Johnson
Margaret McAlpin
Florence Gray
Marie Huddle
Richard Huddle
Rilda Phillips
Caroline Hicks
Maxine McMillen
Gladys Orr
Theresa Seigfried
Leila Soda
Margaret E. Perry
Helen Bills
Mary Reese
Adrienne Burke
Barbara Herron
Deanna Dillon
Janet Carlson
Janet Jensen
Judith Back
Mary Ricke
Martha Ricke
Nadene Holm
Judy Herron
Karen Nelson
Kay Blesie
Shirley Bass
Shirley Munsen
Suzanne Sloan
Jack Slump
Phillip Maher
Bob Ricke
Gary Sundell
Paul Butler
Clarence Larkin
Bob Cozad
Kathleen Dilley
Lawrence D. Orr
Adolph Holm
Corliss Foster
Lawrence Manly
Raymond Swassing, Jr.
Blaine Sadler
Charles Swift
Maurice Fishburn
Joseph Burke
Edward Roach
Jerry Shey
Clair Popp
LaVerne Kerber
Floyd Jones
Don McKenna
Arnold Seigfreid
Raymond Swassing
Bill McAlpin
Larry Orr
Lloyd Orr
Carolyn Holm
James Still
Donald Cox
Wilbur Souders

STANTON

Inez Allquist
Shirley Asklof
Rosalene Arterburn
Betty Olson
Carolyn Peterson
Barbara Anderson
Lorraine Johnson
Marlene Olenius
Carolyn McFarland
Merle Peterson
Richard Kennon
Vance Nimrod
Jean Isaacson
Delaine Isaacson
Dora Isaacson
Lawrence Allquist
Karen Harville

VILLISCA

Virginia Hein
Karen Stuvick
Charlotte Crouse
Carol Smith
Mary Joan Dall
Robert Means
Duane Cooper
Dwight Orton
Stanley Carmichael
Loren Stuvick
John Bashaw
Duane Nippert
Frances Brown
Jane Sprague
Joanne Findley
Kenneth Oltnann
Donald Woodard
Charles R. Coy, Jr.
Lynn Hull
John Hess
Sharon Gray
Beverly Anson
Joyce Norcross

EMERSON

Ada Bird
Marjorie White
Sherwood Behrens
William Behrens
Darrell Behrens
Jack Confer
Robert Heckert

CENTER RIDGE

Byron Bass
Helen Bass
Ruth Ellen Triplett
Dean Hossle

WALES

Laura Wedell
Beth Jones
Lila May Cooper
Laurie Davis

GRISWOLD

Dorothy Shaw

IMOGENE

Marlene Maxwell

HASTINGS

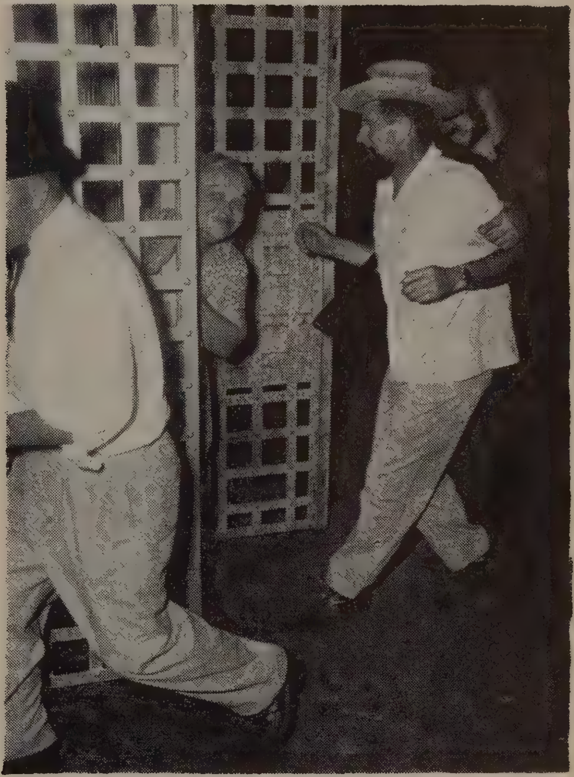
Asha Lookabill

COBURG

Joy Burnison

The group of ladies at the left are watching Kangaroo Court proceedings at Elliott, Iowa.

Pictured left to right are Mrs. Gerald Milner, Mrs. Dean Murren, Mrs. Max Stennett, Mrs. Leroy Baker, Mrs. Lyle Norris. The two young girls standing immediately in back are Myra Beth Mureen and Beverly Stennett.



(Right)

Komedy Kop, Dale Sadler jails Bushy Chuck Smith for being without his Monty Woolie Badge. Grace Evans is thwarted in her attempt to escape while jailer Jim Floding starts after another victim for the Kangaroo Kourt.

ISKER
PERSUADER
CHEAPER TO GROW

(Left)

Beard Chairman, Ira Bishop and Kangaroo Kourt Bailiff Cecil Atkinson fastens Webb Allender in the stocks. Judge Russ Carlson (not pictured) meted out good natured punishment to the violators in Red Oak Kangaroo Kourt each Saturday night.

Congratulations to

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

August 23 to 29

DR. O. E. SMITH

BOB'S HAIR BEAUTY SALON

Bob Cozad, Prop.

402 Third St. Red Oak

GRANT FOOD MARKET

Mrs. Grace Wohlenhaus

Grant, Iowa

SPIKER CHEVROLET CO.

Sales and Service

Grant, Iowa

A GOOD PLACE TO DEAL

LOVIT ICE CREAM

Plate Lunches at Noon, 60c

Home Made Pies

Fountain Service Candy

Cigarettes — Cigars

Serving the Public Since 1932

R. E. BARNES

Red Oak, Iowa

Western Auto

Associate Store

W. S. Vickers

Third and Reed Street

Red Oak, Iowa

1870 1953

Pioneer Mutual
Insurance Association

412 Fourth St. Red Oak

Organized in 1870 by the pioneers of this community to safeguard their homes and possessions.

For 83 years this Association has continued to protect and serve every generation against the elements of destruction.

Over $37,500,000 Insurance
in Force.

Emil Lungren, President

Grant Falk, Secretary

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES

Red Oak Aerie of Fraternal Order of Eagles was instituted on Oct. 19, 1947 with 103 charter members.

Since the community has accepted our organization, we are still gaining with over 400 members on our rolls. With more than a million members the F.O.E. is the largest fraternal organization in the world.

The current program of the F.O.E. is our National Memorial Foundation Fund, with over $3,000,000 which is never spent, but is invested in such a way that the interest is used to provide for the 1,368 children of Eagle fathers of World War II and the Korean Campaign, who gave their lives for their country. This program provides medical and dental care and for their higher education until they either become 21 or graduate from college.

One of our greatest local achievements was our Civil Defense and Disaster program, which was accepted locally and has since gained national recognition through the Grand Aerie.

During the current year the F.O.E. and Auxiliary, with the cooperation of the Red Oak Express, Red Oak Fire Dep't. and Jr. Chamber of Commerce, sponsored a fund raising campaign to procure a larger Emergency Unit and with the great help of the community were successful in that drive.

The Past Presidents of the Aerie in order are: Dowlen Jones, Dallas Bills, Fritz Bruegman, Gean Bailey, Clarence Larkin, Richard Huddle and Lawrence Manly.

Our Ladies Auxiliary was instituted June 11, 1950 with 56 charter members. Their Past Madam Presidents are: Edith Larkin, Golda Bills, Eva Manly and Fern Fuller.

FOR GREATER COMMUNITY SERVICE

We Remain,

YOUR FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES AND AUXILIARY

FREDRICKSON'S
Carl — Martha
North Eastern Ave., Red Oak, Iowa
Dial 2428
Plants for your Vegetable & Flower Gardens

Nolan Howell Garage
General Repair Work
Standard Gas and Oil—Goodyear Tires and Tubes
Telephone 36 **Elliott, Iowa**

KELSAY FEED CO.
Phone 9343
111 Joy St. **Red Oak, Iowa**
High Quality Feeds
Minerals and Antibiotics
Built Better for Better Results
Buy Direct from Kelsay and Save the Difference

Braden & Son Repair Shop
Qualified by Many Years of Experience
Best Available Service on All Makes of Automobiles and Farm Machinery
Complete Overhauling and Repair Service
Valve Work
1054 Oak Street **Red Oak, Iowa**
—Dial 3825—

Do You Remember Him?

James Ballard

"Ballard the Bard"

A history of Red Oak would not be complete without mentioning one of Red Oak's well-known poets.

James Ballard, better known as "Ballard the Bard," was born June 5, 1837. Mr. Ballard was a colorful character. He operated a small truck farm just east of the Jefferson school. Wearing his tall black hat, decorated with radishes, driving his faithful horse Dandy, "Ballard the Bard" was a familiar sight upon the streets of Red Oak.

To call attention to his wares, Mr. Ballard sang or chanted little rhymes to advertise his products. One that is still remembered goes like this:

"Nice sweet corn
Early in the morn;
Tinkle on your horn,
Sure as you are born."

His poetic talents were not confined to his vegetable business. Mr. Ballard wrote many poems and hymns and had them published in small booklets. Among them are "Ballard's Hymn Book," "Ballard's Happy Thoughts," "Ballard's Funny Ones," and perhaps a dozen more.

Mr. Ballard passed on to his reward, May 4, 1912, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery. Engraved on the stone marking his resting place is a picture of Mr. Ballard with hand up-raised, a gesture that was characteristic of him.

Gardener's Experience

The gardener's experience
Is not quite all pleasure,
As he travels around
A selling his treasure.
And he hears very often
The little ones say,
Imitating their mamas,
"Do-n-t want anything today."
He has heard it so often
That it stays in his ears,
And he sings a new song
To drive away cares.
For it tickled the Poet
To hear the little ones say,
Imitating their mamas,
"Do-n-t want anything today."

Dandy

Dandy is a real good horse,
As good as he can be;
And when I want him for to catch,
He comes right up to me

He winoes too and smells my clothes
Very knowingly;
As good as say I'm real glad
You come here after me.

And in my buggy he will back,
Very knowingly;
Just as I want between the shafts,
Oh how pleasantly.

And when I'm seated in my rig,
My little cushion on;
And with my hands pick up the lines,
Dandy will go on.

Fast or slow just as I want,
I do not need a whip;
Only with my tongue if need,
Just give a little klick.

And away we go just as we please,
Over smooth and rough;
A helping to supply folks needs,
With fresh garden stuff.

And when I come to places where
I very often stop;
Slack up his pace my Dandy will;
And to one side will stop.

Thus everything I put him at,
He seems to work so handy;
And in make and everything,
He is a "real Dandy."

Clock of Time

Parents, while your children are young,
Ere the clock of time strikes one;
Train them right we all should do,
Never wait 'till it strikes two.

Easy managed they will be,
When time's finger points to three;
Watch them carefully 'till four,
Lest they in a pit fall lower.

Righteous training always thine,
When the clock of time strikes five;
How important then to fix,
Minds just right before they're six.

Little

Tune — Thoughtful

If its only a little
That I can do,
Help me that little
Lord to pursue,
For it takes the littles
For to make the much,
And my Heavenly Father
Always approves of such.
Therefore I'll do my little,
While on earth I stay
For I know it won't be long at most
'Till I am called away.

The old stage coach used to run from the rail head at Ottumwa to Council Bluffs. It entered Red Oak on East Coolbaugh, turned on Towle street to Washington Avenue. It continued to the old Stagecoach Hotel at 4th and Washington where the uptown Wholesale Fruit is now located. The driver of the old stage was Buckskin Tracy. Many glamorous stories of his feats of strength are still told in Red Oak. The old stagecoach has now been placed in the museum in Des Moines.

CONNORS, Inc.

Red Oak, Iowa—Phone 4322

Dry Goods

Ready-to-Wear

Infantswear

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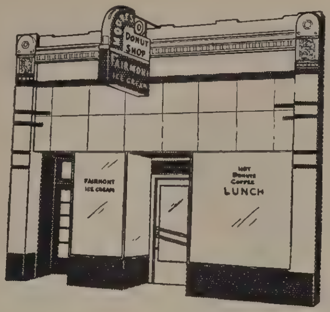
The Store of Greater

Values



"Quality" "Service"

Serving Good Food to a
Growing Community

Moore's Donut Shop

220 Coolbaugh Street
Red Oak, Iowa

McKenzie Drug Store

Drugs

Gifts

Wallpaper

Paints

Whitman's Candy

Prescriptions

This establishment has served the community as a drug store for 55 years.

East Side Square
Red Oak, Iowa

MURREN & WESTERLUND

GRAIN -:-: COAL

FEED & SEED

Phone 4 **Elliott, Iowa**

CONGRATULATIONS

to

Montgomery County Centennial

WALTER JOHNSON

General Carpenter Work and Cabinet Making

104 W. Corning **Phone 4191**

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Real Estate Farm Loans
Insurance Farm Management
415 Coolbaugh St. **Red Oak**

TENVILLE SERVICE STATION

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Pond & Gidley

Cafe — Sandwiches — Coffee — Pie

Ice Cream and Cigarettes

CLYDE STARLIN

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LA SIESTA
MOTEL

½ Mile West on Highway 34
Quiet — Comfortable
Telephones and Air-Conditioning In All Rooms

Call 4744 **Red Oak, Iowa**

W. A. SPONG, Owner-Mgr.

SEEFELDT FLOWERS

A Hobby That Grew Into
a Business

Mrs. Hiram Cole Houghton

No Boundaries

Mrs. Hiram Cole Houghton combines the talents of a small town homemaker with the leadership qualities which placed her at the head of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, 1950-52. She is noted as an orator and her magnetic personality has endeared her to millions of women in this country and abroad.

She has been interested in the welfare of her town and state and has served actively on many boards and associations of both.

She has received honorary degrees from Coe College, Tarkio College, and American University, Washington, D. C.—the first woman to receive an honorary degree from this University. In 1952 the decoration of the Order of Orange Nassau was bestowed upon her by Her Majesty, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands. She was honored by the Colorado Federation when 500 trees were planted in her honor in the Federation Forest.

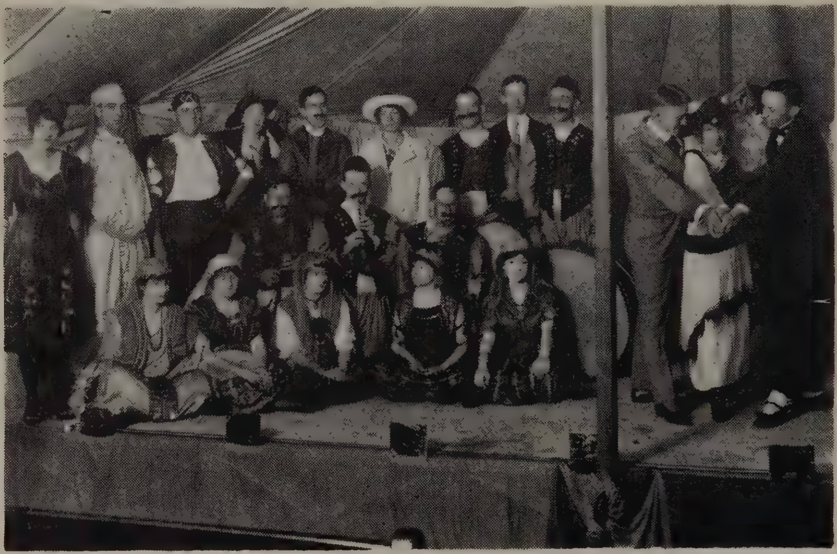
In 1953 she was appointed by President Eisenhower as Assistant Administrator to Mr. Harold Stassen in the Mutual Security Administration in charge of Refugees and Migration.

Through her work in this job and in the General Federation Mrs. Houghton has proven that although she was born and brought up in a small town, in the land of opportunity, she is an example of what an American can accomplish.

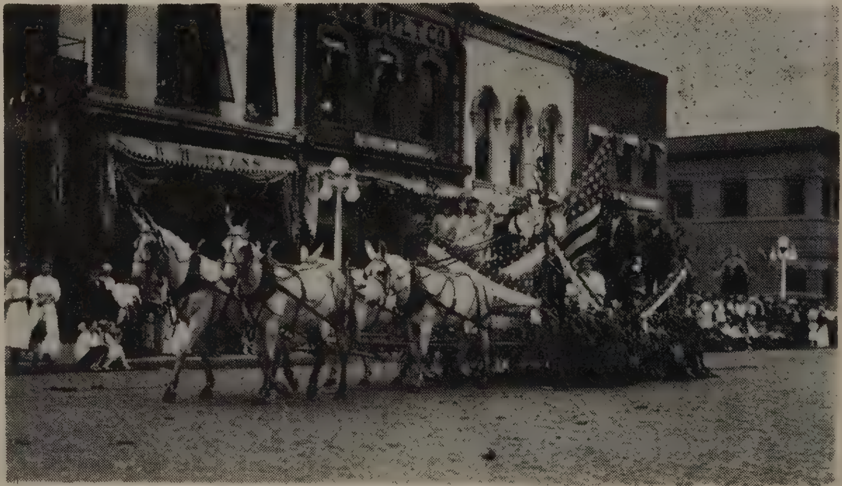
Monty Festo

In September of 1914 the first Monty--Festo was held. Strictly a Montgomery County affair, the name was taken to designate it was a combination of Montgomery & Festival, contracted into the term "Monty-Festo" by D. D. Samson. Chairman of the General Committee was Judge H. E. Deemer and George Wood, secretary.

A three-day affair held in College Park, the program included an Indian night with pageant and chorus, a pioneer night of historical setting with re-enactment of old times in Montgomery County life, and a jollification night with fireworks and confetti. Company M put on a battle scene from real life. Band concerts, parades, drills, athletic events, automobile parades, farm exhibits, and lectures by representatives of the State college and University, baby health conference, canning conference, home economics exhibits completed the program. With the exception of auto polo, all attractions of the program were absolutely free to the public.



Pictured above is the cast from an early "Monty-Festo" production. Front row left to right: Mrs. Herbert Porterfield, Mrs. Larry Nygaard, Mrs. Bernice R. Hunt, Mrs. Arch Payne, Mrs. Floss Staire. Second row: Delbert Coppage, Dr. Max Brown, Dr. Roy Morris. Back row: Unidentified lady, Dr. Herbert Porterfield, Archer Payne, Mrs. Hugh Tollman, Harry Raymond, Mrs. Roy Morris, Hugh Tollman, Paul Olson, Gene Crandall, Chevaliere Junkin, Ruth Chapman, Ben Morris.



A Float in the First Monty Festo Parade in Red Oak, 1915

SYMBOL OF SERVICE

International Harvester

We Carry a Complete Line of—
- Freezers
- Refrigerators
- Air Conditioners
- Motor Trucks
- International Farm Equipment
- Body Shop and
- Upholstery Shop

Make Our Store Your Headquarters

Home Implement Company

Red Oak, Iowa
KENNETH SLUMP, Prop.
Dial 3456

BORN IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY— and farmed the early part of my life, then started in real estate 1936. See me before you buy or sell . . .

LOTS, HOUSES & FARMS

RALPH HERRON, Realtor

Red Oak, Iowa

205 Nuckols **Dial 9141**

EBERT & SON TEXACO SERVICE

103 Second St. — Red Oak, Iowa

Service Station ★ Tank Wagon Service

In business since 1949 offering friendly and courteous service at all times. Prior to owning service station Harlan Ebert farmed one of Montgomery County's best farms 9 miles north of Red Oak. In 1939 the Ebert family moved to Louisiana for 6 years, then to Kansas where Mr. Ebert farmed before buying his service station in Red Oak.

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Quality Jewelers

Diamonds — Watches — Gifts

Expert Watch and Jewelry Repairing

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KEESLER RADIO AND T. V. SERVICE

Sylvania Television Sets

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MAX R. KEESLER, Prop.

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DR. L. B. PETERSEN

Optometrist and Optician
603 Third Street
Red Oak Iowa

JOHNNY'S CAFE

101 W. Broadway **Dial 9891**
Red Oak, Iowa
Prop. Carol R. Allen
Beer — Sandwiches — Coffee — Soft Drinks

ARDITH'S BEAUTY SHOP

Hair Styling — Permanent Waves
Manicures
Ardith and Louise
Dial 3470 **Red Oak, Iowa**

C. O. DUTTON, Insurance

411 - 4th Street

Dial 9575 Red Oak, Iowa

Religious Influence Great in Red Oak

First Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church of Red Oak was the first church in the little village of Red Oak. It was organized August 31, 1856 and thus lacks only three years of reaching the century mark. The church was founded by people of Baptist conviction, who as they migrated westward felt the need of a place of worship. Before a meeting house could be built the members of the newly formed church held meetings in homes, in groves or on the shady side of a settler's cabin. After the platting of Red Oak in 1857 a building site was donated and plans for erecting a building were made. This modest little church edifice was outgrown in a few years. On January 8, 1888 a new place of worship was formally dedicated. This church served the Baptist people for a period of 40 years. Its outreach during this period extended beyond our own community in the dedication of the Rev. Fred Haggard and the Rev. James Latimer to foreign missionary service. With the development of new methods of religious education this church was becoming inadequate to meet the changing needs. On May 13, 1928 ground breaking services were held and dedication services held during the week of April 28-May 5, 1929. To further enhance the service of music a Hammond Electric organ was dedicated March 14, 1948 with memorial chimes dedicated April 20, 1952. After nearly a quarter century extensive improvements have been made in remodeling the sanctuary and this was dedicated Feb. 10, 1952.

First Methodist Church

The first sermon ever preached in Montgomery county was delivered in 1855 by Rev. James Rand, a Methodist circuit rider from Adams county. It was another Methodist circuit rider, Rev. Samuel Farlow of Clarinda, who preached the first sermon in Red Oak, in the spring of 1857. This meeting was in a log cabin, which was situated near a spring on what is now East Coolbaugh. In 1861 the first Methodist church building was commenced, and was located on the northeast corner of Sixth and Hammond, across the street north of the present location. In 1869 Red Oak became a station with a regular assigned pastor, and the second church building was erected on the southeast corner of Sixth and Hammond during the years 1874 and 1875. In 1903-1905 the third church was built on the same location, and in 1928 the church was remodeled to provide room for church school classes. At the present time the church is being redecorated, and the new Shepard Memorial organ has been installed.

First Presbyterian Church

On June 13th, 1869, The First Presbyterian Church of Red Oak was organized. This church was brought to Red Oak thru the efforts of the famous missionary, Rev. Sheldon Jackson who later went to Alaska where he became a strong force in the life of that new territory. The first services were held in the town's only school house, which stood about where the High School stands today. Early in 1870 a one room frame structure was erected on the east end of the same block. After warshiping for 23 years in this location it was replaced with a much larger building, which was again enlarged in 1912. The present building was erected in 1923, with the dedication service in September when every member marched from the old building on Hammond Street, to the new edifice, forming a procession three block long. The United Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Lawn became affiliated with the Red Oak Church in 1925. During the 84 years of its organization two missionaries have carried the gospel to foreign lands, the Rev. Hugh Taylor to Siam, and Rev. Earnest Whiley to Africa who is serving there with his wife at the present time.

Congregational Church

Early in 1869 "Father" John Todd of Tabor called on most of the Congregational people in this area. A meeting was held August 8, 1870 in the Baptist Church to plan the organizing of a Congregational Church, after which a council convened in October with delegates and ministers from the Council Bluffs District, who advised and assisted in completing the organization. The first church was erected in 1873 with 24 members uniting January 22, 1874. The present building was dedicated December 19, 1915. The pipe organ was given as a memorial for Mrs. H. C. Houghton, Sr. In 1946 several small rooms were made into the Howard Koenemann Memorial Chapel. Congregationalists started the first college in America, the first missionary societies (foreign and home), the first religious newspaper, first theological seminary, the first Christian young peoples movement, published the first hymn book, and started the public school system to mention just a few.

Mission Covenant

The Mission Covenant Church of Red Oak, formerly the Swedish Mission Church, had its beginning in the early 1870's, when large numbers of Swedish immigrants were settling in this area. A small group of people, known as "Mission Friends" gathered in homes for services with Mr. J. P. Peters as lay preacher until 1891. He was the father of Emil and Luther Peters, Mrs. Arthur Larson and Mrs. Carl J. Anderson, who are present residents of Red Oak. The first church was a one room house by the riverside, The "pews" were wide boards nailed all around the room, with the walls serving as back rests. Six bracket kersoene lamps furnished light and a stove stood in the center of the room. A new church was built on First Avenue in 1890, with a larger edifice erected in 1902, this time at the present location on the corner of Third and Hammond Streets. In 1916 extensive remodling was done making the present brick structure. Services were conducted in the Swedish language up to World War I when the Governor of Iowa issued a proclamation prohibiting the use of any foreign language in public services. A missionary spirit has always been prevalent in the church, which was highlighted in 1948 when the Church assumed the full support of Mrs. Maynard Londborg, a missionary in Alaska.

United Brethren Church

The Grace Evangelical United Brethern Church was organized in 1905, at the annual conference, when mission work was undertaken in the City of Red Oak in connection with Salem Evangelical Church of West Township. Rev. J. M. Bamford of Salem Church organized a class in Red Oak March 8, 1907 with fourteen charter members. In this same year the present church edifice was built at Fourth and Prospect Streets.

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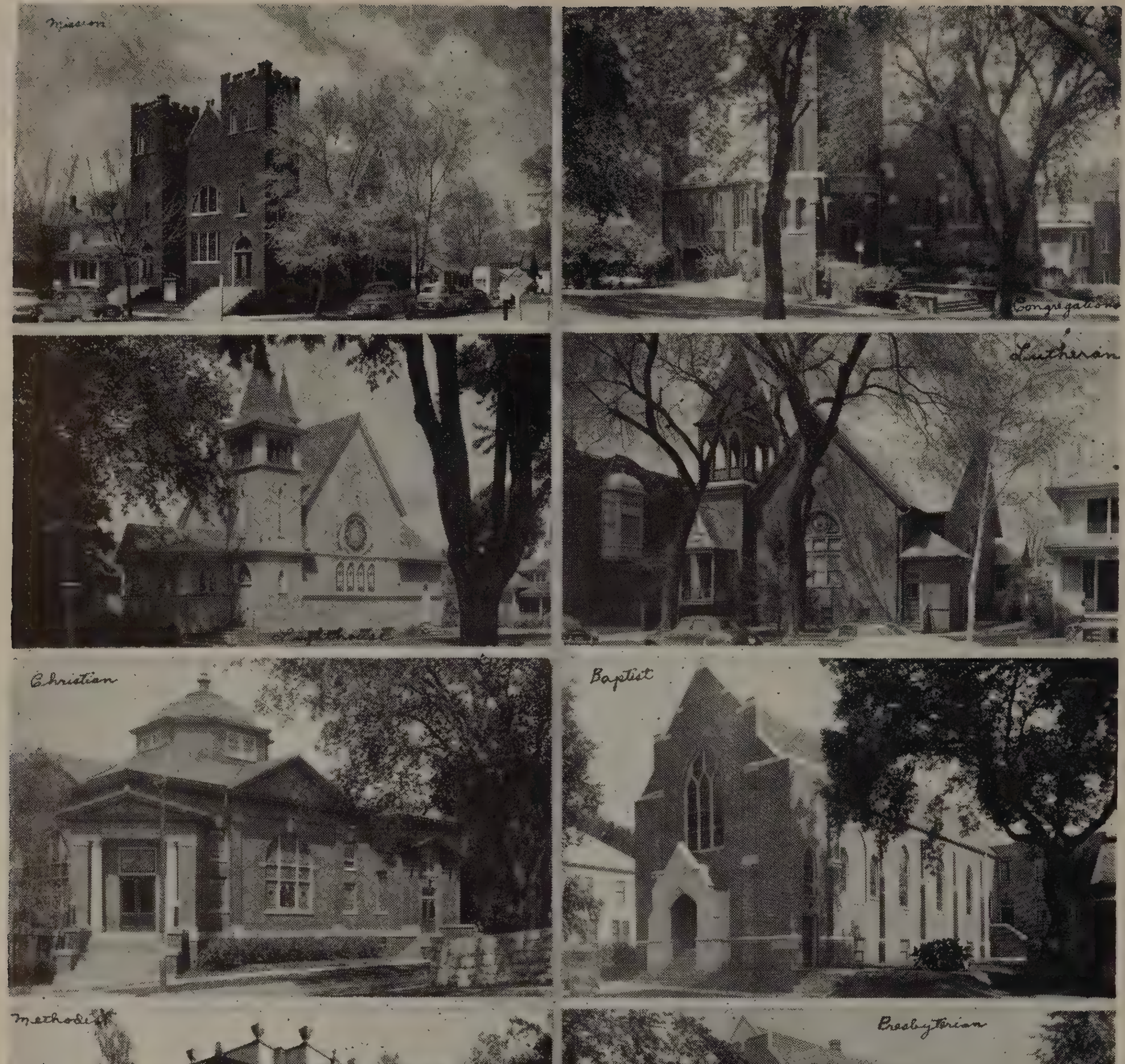
Mission
Congregational
Lutheran
Christian
Baptist
Methodist
Presbyterian
Catholic
United Brethern
Nazarene
REVIVAL

Missing in the above picture of the Red Oak churches are the following: Church of God, Salvation Army and Christian Science.

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Hap Conner

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Church of Christ

The Christian Church was organized in Red Oak in 1871, the first elders being A. McConnell and C. M. Mills. Services were held in different halls until 1878 when their church was built on the southeast corner of Fifth and Hammond. In 1913 the present church was built and the members formed a parade as they went from the old to the new church. When the congregation celebrated their twentieth anniversary in this church in June of 1933, they retired the building indebtedness of $3800.00. In 1936 the sanctuary was remodelled and beautiful stained glass windows installed.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pastor B. M. Halland met with a group of Swedish people of Red Oak Junction on January 9, 1872 and helped them organize the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. There were twenty-four charter members when the organization was completed on January 26, 1872. At the annual meeting of the congregation in January 1873, Pastor Skeppstedt, resident pastor of the Fremont congregation was called to hold services at Bethlehem one Sunday a month, and in this same year they were accepted into the Augustana Synod. The first church was built in southwest Red Oak on a lot donated by the C. B. & Q. R. R. in the vicinity of the present depot, and was completed in June of 1875. In September 1885 this church was moved to Reed Street, where the present church now stands. In 1892 the church structure was enlarged, and in 1904 a new church was built, which is the present church building. The Swedish language was used entirely until a decision was made in 1915 to have two English Sunday evening services per month, and in 1916 it was decided to conduct morning services in English on the fifth Sunday of the month whenever there were five Sundays in the month. Not until in 1929 did English become the prevailing language, and used at all services. On Easter Sunday 1942 a new pipe organ was dedicated. It stands as a living monument to the memory of Pastor Walter F. Peterson, through whose ceaseless efforts and planning the new organ was secured. Since the war membership and attendance have increased perceptibly and many are beginning to think in terms of better church facilities for worship and education.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

St. Mary's Catholic Church was organized in 1878, although a frame church building had been put up in 1875, at a cost of $800.00. The first pastor was Rev. J. Barry. In 1902 the second building was dedicated. It was erected at a cost of $7000. This church is still serving its people.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

St. Paul's Episcopal parish was organized in 1878. The first officers were Rev. J. Evans Ryam, rector, and Dr. Monell, J. C. Welch, F. P. Wormley, J. T. Brink and H. Ogden, vestrymen. In 1878 they built a neat frame church which cost about $2000. At present this church is not in existence and the members are worshiping with the Shenandoah church.

United Presbyterian Church

The United Presbyterian church was organized in Red Oak by Rev. D. C. Wilson in October 1871 with nineteen members, and in 1872 the church building was erected and dedicated at Fifth and Hammond. This church has since disbanded and the church building was sold to the Lighthouse Pentacostal Church.

The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army conducted its first meeting in Red Oak in the year of 1925 under the leadership of Ensign Helm. Their first meeting place was in a room under Dr. Gillmor's office. They continued to meet there until 1935 when they moved into the Salvation Army Chapel at 310 Market Street. The large contribution of Nellie Haines made the erection of this building possible. The Salvation Army still conducts services at this location under the leadership of Lt. Norma Reyner with the assistance of Lt. Thelma Young.

First Wedding In Red Oak

The first wedding ceremony in Red Oak was performed by Judge Horton. The principals were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bolt. It was the Judge's first attempt, and he got things slightly mixed, but little inaccuracies were overlooked.

Mrs. B. B. Clark and Mrs. H. C. Houghton, Jr. were the committee appointed for getting a fountain in the public square.

First White Man In The County

The first white man to settle with his family in Montgomery County was John Ross. He was a native of Kentucky.

Mr. Ross was an individualist. The stories told of him would fill a volume. He was fond of hunting and an unerring shot with his rifle. Mr. Ross was very illiterate, could neither read nor write, and yet he was a man of excellent judgment, and good sound sense naturally.

The first settler of the County never received a letter in his life in all probability. Once while in Maryville, Missouri, John offered the postmaster a quarter of a dollar for a letter. He relates of the incident, "But don't you think that feller was so doggoned mean that he wouldn't give me one? He said he didn't have none, but I know he lied for I seen he had dozens of 'em. But he was just that mean he wouldn't let me have even a little one, though I offered him just what the other fellows paid for theirs."

Mr. Ross had moved from Page County to Montgomery. He declared that the reason he left that county was because it was so thickly settled that he could hear his neighbors call their cattle and hogs. There were not more than half a dozen families in the neighborhood.

A story is related, that upon being asked his reason for leaving this county. Ross said: "Well, the other day there was some shoats runnin' about in front of the house, and my, children says: "Pap, whose hogs is them?" Now whenever a county gets so densely populated that my children can see other men's hogs than mine runnin' about my dooryard, it's time for me to leave."

There is, of course, a great deal of exaggeration in these stories, but also a great deal of truth.

By 1857 civilization had encroached upon Mr. Ross to such an extent that he sold out and sought a home in Kansas, where he was unmolested by the advance of civilization.

A year or two later, while on a hunting expedition, he was killed by a roving band of Cheyenne Indians.

Red Oak became a city on March 20, 1876, but was officially Red Oak Junction until June 13, 1901, when the word "Junction" was dropped.

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Stanton, "the litt

Growing and Progressi

The citizens of Stanton and surrounding community are served by two beautiful churches, Mamrelund Lutheran church (pictured above) and the Mission Covenant church. Mamrelund Lutheran is considered by many to be one of the stand-out examples of church architecture in the Midwest. Church activities help Stanton's adults and children to be joyful and content in "The Little White City with the Two White Churches." The two Christian centers have more than 1,500 total communicant members.

Stanton is located about eight miles from the seat of Montgomery county in the heart of a rich agricultural area. Founded by hearty pioneers largely of Swedish stock, the pleasant Stanton community has grown and prospered for 83 years. Its residents have constantly contributed to the economic, social and spiritual advance of Montgomery county. Stanton is on a paved highway two miles south of highway 34 and the town itself is all paved—36 blocks of concrete pavement. It has its own city water system—boosted in 1953 by a new high-production well—electricity, a complete sewage system, a public library, and is on the main line of the C. B. & Q. railroad. Stanton's business street, "Broad avenue," is lighted by new mercury-vapor street lights. All other streets are lighted, too.

Another "pride" of Stanton is its excellent college-accredited 12-grade public school, which emphasizes those subjects needed to develop efficient farm and farm-home production. Stanton's citizens realize that towns grow where farms prosper and that we can all grow more. Its school and its businesses are pledged to the advancement of agriculture and better farm life. A fine, large gymnasium is used regularly for the physical improvement of its young people.

Stanton is a wonderful place to live—ask anyone who lives here now—and is near enough to other Montgomery county cities as to make commuting from home to job simple. In the past years, Stanton has grown with Montgomery county—it will continue to grow and prosper, as will, we are confident, Montgomery county.

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white city"
Vith Montgomery County

ntgomery county this year has noted
Century of Progress" because its people
enjoyed social recreation in groups as
as community effort toward better-
.

anton is always busily engaged in some
of group recreating and accomplish-
. Numerous clubs and neighborhood
nizations are constantly striving toward
rment of city, home, school and church.
ny of the social recreation projects
place at Anderson park—home of the
ton Vikings, Stanton's famous inde-
ent baseball team—the first and finest
ed park in Southwest Iowa. Beautiful
rson park also features picnic areas
lots of playground equipment for the
es.

mmunity events include Baseball Day,
ton's fall festival of baseball, Swedish
dancing, smorgasbord and good fellow-
Santa Lucia Day in early December, a
tional welcoming in the Swedish fash-
f the spirit of Christmas; Pancake Day,
la get-together for a big parade, games,
ests, and an evening of entertainment;
a Maj, a Swedish celebration of the
ng of May; Christmas Festival, a
nber of Commerce-sponsored prize-
rding community gathering; and Kid
Day, a civic club sponsored fishing
t for all the children of the county.

nging is one of the basic elements in
ton's rich social life. Choir concerts,
ol operettas, recitals, and organ con-
s are all a part of the rich musical heri-
which has made this thriving commun-
"City of song."

s fun to live in Stanton. If you're
ng for a place to live when you retire,
not pick a friendly city where every-
lives in pleasant companionship—Stan-
the Little White City.

City cleanliness has always been one of the things which have made citizens of Stanton proud and near-by farmer-citizens enthusiastic about trading here.

Daily attention to cleanliness of sidewalks and streets and to cleanliness of stores and of homes has made others conscious of the appearance of their businesses and homes. Stanton claims its title, "the Little White City," because so many of its firms and homes are painted white.

But they only stay that way because of a great civic pride which manifests itself in constant attention to any proposal for the betterment of life here.

Stanton businessmen are proud to serve their fellow citizens—whether the families of retired farmers, retired businessmen, active farmers or in-town employees.

It is from this pride that arise our sincere best wishes and prayers for continued growth and success of Montgomery county, Iowa, through another 100 years.

OGRESSIVE STANTON BUSINESS FIRMS

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Scott Township . . . A Little Bit of Sweden

In 1854, the year after Montgomery County was organized, Amos J. Lawson, bought a tract of land in what later became Scott Township. He had left his birthplace in Columbus, Ohio, and after traveling to various points in the Midwest including Logan, Iowa, where he took a bride, he decided to make Montgomery county his home. Land was cheap, so he purchased 120 acres for $1.25 an acre. At that time there were few people living in the county and like many other settlers, a dugout became the Lawson's home. When after 17 years, Mr. Lawson decided to build a house, the nearest place he could go to get siding was Council Bluffs. He traveled by oxen and the trip took 13 days. After 82 years this house still stands and makes up a part of the present farmhouse. The Lawsons had 13 children, six of whom are now living. At the time of his death in 1895, Mr. Lawson had doubled the acreage of his farm. After 99 years this tract of land is still in the Lawson family. A son, Albert Lawson, owns the farm and resides there.

Although the history of Scott township began almost as soon as the organization of the county, it was not until 1870 that it was made a township. It was the last of the nine townships to be organized. It was during the previous year that the Rev. B. M. Halland started his efforts to interest Swedish people in securing land in this new midwest. The Rev. Mr. Halland was a native of Sweden and had come to Illinois as a boy in 1855. He had studied at the University of Illinois at Springfield and also at Paxton, Illinois. In 1864 he was ordained a Lutheran minister and his first charge was at Burlington, Iowa.

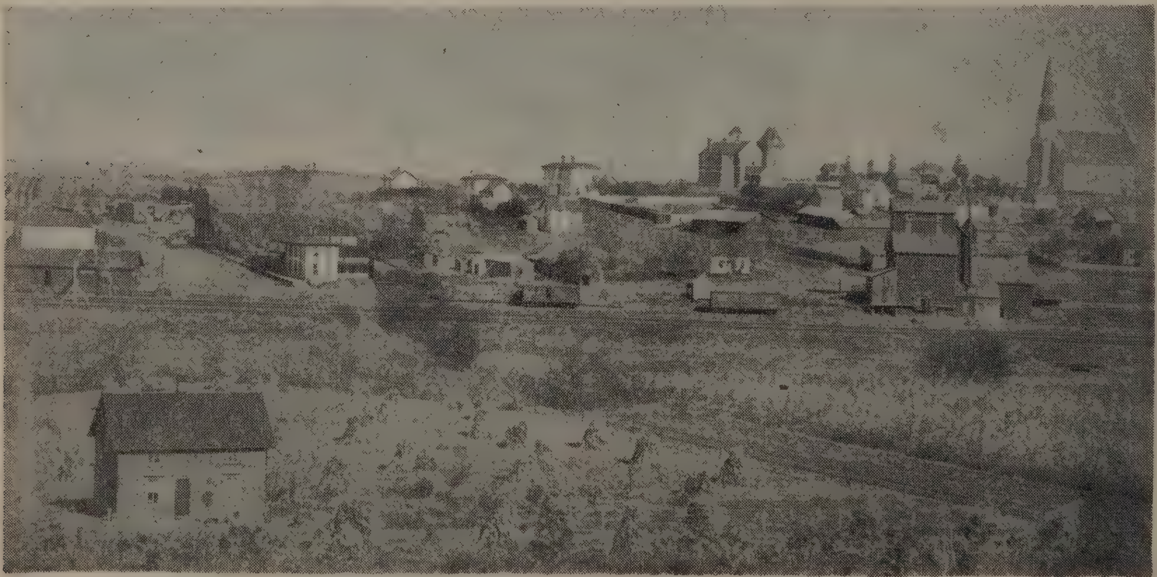
Rev. B. M. Halland, founder of Swedish Settlement in Montgomery and Page County.

The Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Co. (now the C. B. & Q.) was anxious to attract settlers to southern and western Iowa to provide business for the railroad it was building. As the Rev. Mr. Halland was thinking of the growing number of Swedish immigrants, he approached the railroad company with the proposition of securing land. He selected the tract of land between the West Nodaway and East Nishnabotna Rivers in Montgomery and Page counties. During 1869 the Rev. Mr. Halland made many trips to the Stanton vicinities on foot and on horseback.

It was expected that the new railroad would be ready for business in Montgomery county in the late fall of 1869. The majority of settlers were expected to arrive after the railroad began its operation; however, a few arrived before its completion to seek employment. A man received a wage of $2.00 per day and $4.00 per day for a man and a team of horses. Among those who arrived before the railroad were the Samuel Anderson family, who traveled from their home in Illinois to Afton, Iowa, by railroad and from Afton to Villisca by covered wagon.

The town of Stanton was laid out in 1869 and the original plat of the town was filed Oct. 24, 1870. The contracts for the sale of railroad land grants became available on April 1, 1870.

It was never definitely established how Stanton received its name. It is known that the Rev. Mr. Halland suggested that it be named "Holmstad" after a city in his native province in Sweden. This was considered, but it was decided that it was too difficult for the railroad conductors to pronounce, so the name of Stanton was chosen, possi-



The oldest known picture of Stanton, 18 years after founding of community.

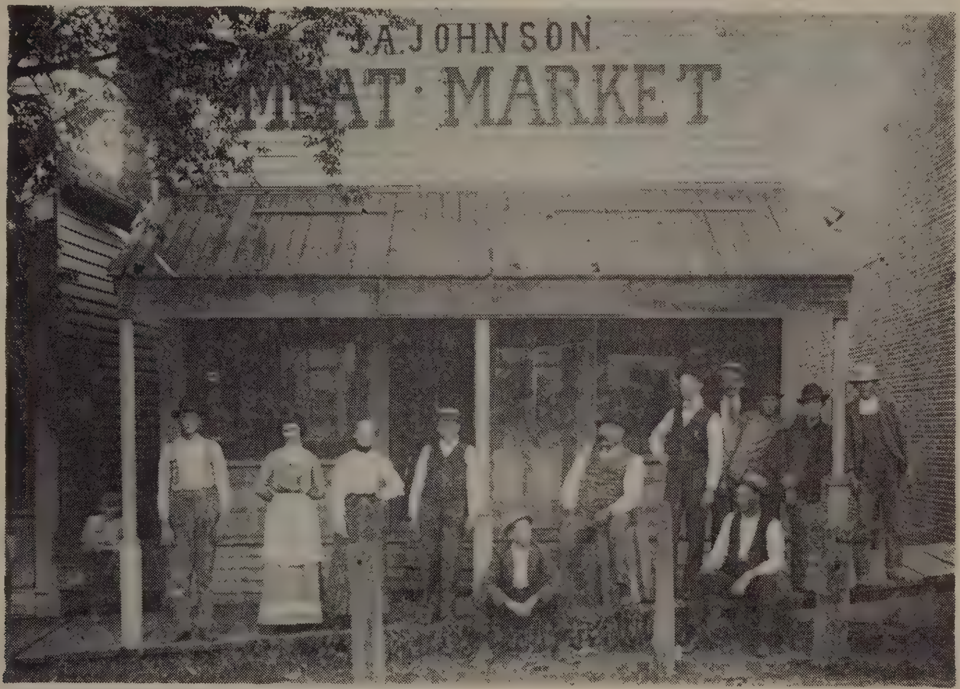
bly after Edwin Stanton, Lincoln's Secretary of War. When a township was formed June 8, 1870, it was named Stanton; however, it was soon changed to Scott and the name of Stanton was left for the town within its borders.

The first lot in the town of Stanton was purchased by Malcolm Holm. The first child to be born in Stanton was a son of Malcolm Holm, and he was given the name of Stanton.

The first marriage was that of Nels Sandberg.

On May 25, 1870, the Rev. Mr. Halland organized the Mamrelund Lutheran Church with forty-three communicants and thirty-one children. On April 3, 1879, the Mission Covenant church was organized with sixteen members. These two churches remain the only two in Stanton, as well as in Scott township.

The first store was built and operated by Peterson and Hogwall on the east side of Main street. The post office was also in this building with a few cigar boxes on one of the shelves of the store serving as mail boxes. Among the early business men were the Swanson brothers, A. M. Swanson, who was the first postmaster and also sold lumber; C. W. Swanson, who operated a general store; and Alfred Swanson, who built and operated a grain elevator. Sven E. Johnson, the blacksmith was a very busy man as the services of a blacksmith were always in demand in those days. C. W. Hine was a young doctor in the community and also operated a drug store.



One of Stanton's early business establishments. Standing: Joe Swanson, Myrtle Foy Focht, Maude Johnson, Fred Olson, August Johnson, August Rydbeck. Last three unidentified. Sitting on box: F. A. (Biddy) Vetter. Sitting on sidewalk: Fred Sandin and Teddy Danbom.

Stanton was incorporated as a town in 1882 and E. E. Mercer was made the first Mayor. Among the earliest township officers recorded were C. S. Shaw, clerk; Charles Reed, clerk of election; B. W. Spargur, G. N. Cady and Samuel Walker, trustees and F. Bishop, assessor.

As in all pioneer communities one of the problems was that of the roving herds of cattle. In 1870 a law was passed which made the owner responsible for his herds. There was no barbed wire available and board fences were too expensive. The pioneers soon planted the Osage Orange hedge for fences.

Sunday, June 13, 1875, is remembered as the day when a huge scrouge of grasshoppers blackened the sky and suddenly came to rest on the earth. In three days they had eaten away all crops and everything else available. Their destruction complete, they flew away.

Although many hardships beset these pioneers, they kept in mind those less fortunate than they. An example of this is the building of a Children's Home one and one-half miles south of Stanton. It was dedicated in 1881. It was maintained by the Iowa conference of the Augustana Synod during its 50 years of existence.

From its humble beginning, Scott township has developed into a community of hard-working, honest folk, mostly of Swedish extraction. Although the pioneer days have long since passed, the people of Stanton and of Scott township still cling to many of the traditions handed down to them by their forefathers.

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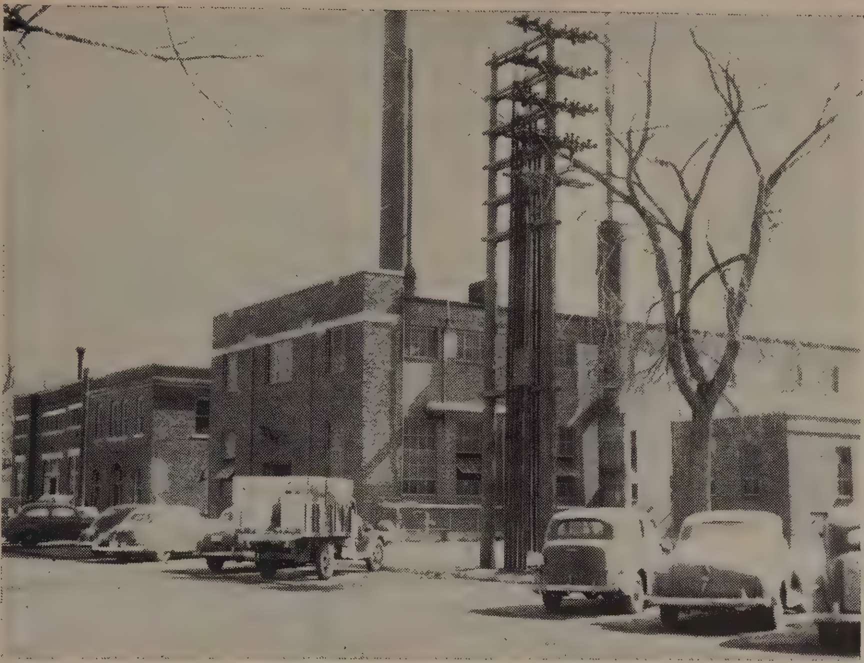
Sar, Raymond V.
Swanson, R. J.
Swanson, R. John
Wenstrand, Oscar
Williams, John J.



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Reddy Kilowatt

"I Started to Work Here in Red Oak in 1892"

Mr. F. E. (Pat) O'Malley, Ipalco district manager in the Red Oak office.

Only 13 years elapsed from the time the settlement of Red Oak was organized as a town, when gas service was brought to the town in 1882.

The town continued to grow, and with this growth, came REDDY KILOWATT in 1892 when the Red Oak Electric Company was started by Westinghouse Manufacturing Co. In 1914 the company was called the Continental Gas and Electric Company and in 1927, joined the Nebraska Gas and Electric to form the Iowa-Nebraska Company and in September of 1943 the operation was purchased by Ipalco.

Reddy is going to work just as hard in the future as he has in the past to bring you all the help, comfort and conveniences that Electric Living offers.

THE *New* WORD FOR *Service*

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Sherman Township, Then and Now . . .

On January 9, 1868 the county board ordered that congressional township No. 73, Range 38, be set off in a new township, named Sherman. The townships of Grant, Lincoln and Sherman were all created by the board at this January session, and the names given show how decisively the patriotic sentiments of stalwart unionism ruled the county board.

The name G. A. Davis appears as the first member of the county board from Sherman Township, January 4, 1869. George Martin was the first assessor; D. D. Sanders, the first justice of the peace, and H. W. Gaffitt the first clerk.

One of the first schools was taught by D. C. Powell, in the winter of 1858-59, in a cabin near the Stennett bridge. There were 15 pupils. The teacher received $20.00 per month. Another first school was taught by Thomas Jack in a small cabin near the old Stennett mill. There were eight scholars. Mr. Jack received $25.00 per month. By 1881 Sherman Township had nine school districts, with nine frame school houses, valued at $3600.00. There were five male and eight female teachers; 216 boys and 173 girls of school age, of whom 308 were enrolled, but only an average of 176 attended school. The cost was an average of $1.40 a month for each one's tuition.

The oldest farm in Montgomery county lies in Sherman township in Section 23. The farm is now owned by E. W. and Myrtle Erickson.

Elliott, Then . . .

Just how Elliott got its name is hard to determine. From the best information available, the town was named after a man who worked on the railroad which was put through Elliott in the year 1879. Just who he was and why he was thus honored is the sixty-four dollar question.

The land on which Elliott stands was a farm back in 1879. A Mr. C. E. Perkins, acting for the C. B. & Q. railroad, bought this farm of a man by the name of Gilmore, and platted the town of Elliott, filing the orignal plat October 18, 1879.

Within a year Elliott was a pioneer city of "firsts." Its first store was built by Joe McClure, who also ran its first drugstore. First blacksmith, Fred Garberg; first mayor, L. D. Babcock; first postmaster, I. H. Page; first depot agent, O. N. Phillips; first doctor, Fred Baster; first bank in 1884 opened by H. E. and J. J. Manker; first newspaper, the Elliott Enterprise, with O. C. Bates as editor, started six months after the birth of the town; first baby girl born here, later became Mrs. Mabel Reynolds Kinney; first boy baby born here, George Mercer.

Elliott, Now . . .

While Elliott has fewer business houses than it had a generation ago, the residential section has not lost much. There are today 170 homes in Elliott, all occupied. Of that number 20 are apartments. The percentage of home owners here beats all recorded records for a small town. There are not over seven homes here occupied by tenents.

Elliott's waterworks system is tip-top with stand pipe, mains and sewers all over town. The town boasts a fine fire truck with a big surplus tank for use where no mains are available, as in the farm communities nearby.

A $5,000 dike thrown around the west part of town a few years ago has been one hundred per cent successful. There hasn"t been a flood since it was built.

A consolidated school with its five buses attends to the scholastic needs of a large district. The school, in conjunction with the town, has one of the best lighted baseball and football fields in southwest Iowa.

Practically all streets paved with black top and some with rock surface, lift Elliott out of the mud.

Two active churches, Methodist and Christian, are well attended. Both have well managed Sunday schools, women's societies and also young people's departments to aid in church progress.

Women's clubs galore keep the gentle sex from becoming homebound in Elliott and adjacent communities. There are fourteen clubs in all, not counting the church aid organizations, in and around Elliott. A well stocked public library is a generously-patronized educational feature of the town.

Elliott in Days of the Buggy

Centennial Greetings

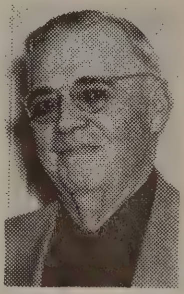
Owned and Operated by
PAYNE FAMILY SINCE 1901—SERVING
THE COMMUNITY FOR 52 YEARS.

"The Ornaments of a House are the Guests Who Frequent It."

HOTEL JOHNSON

Red Oak, Iowa

Hazel



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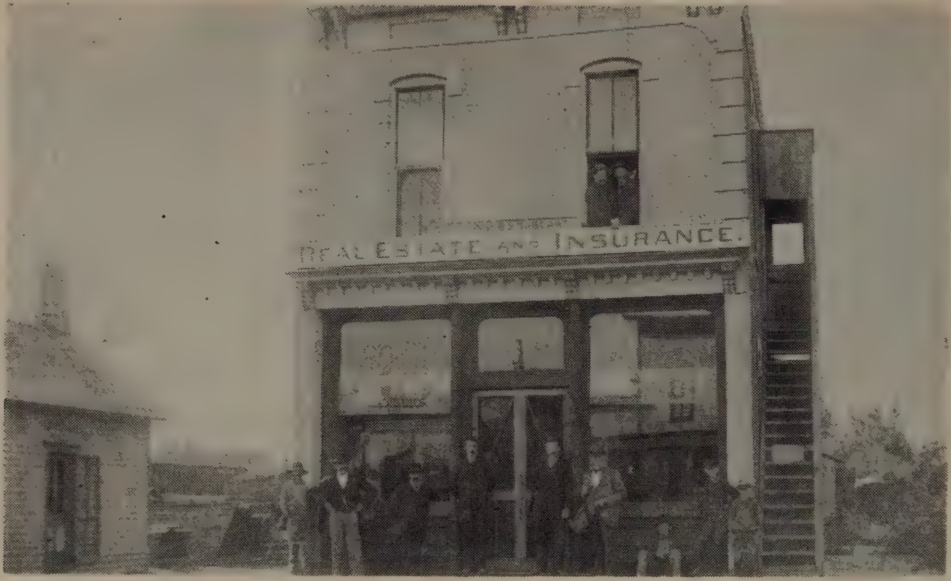
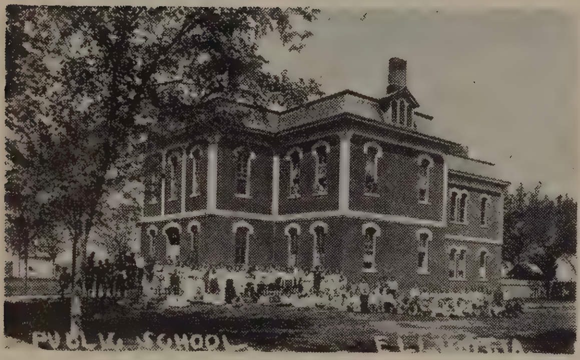
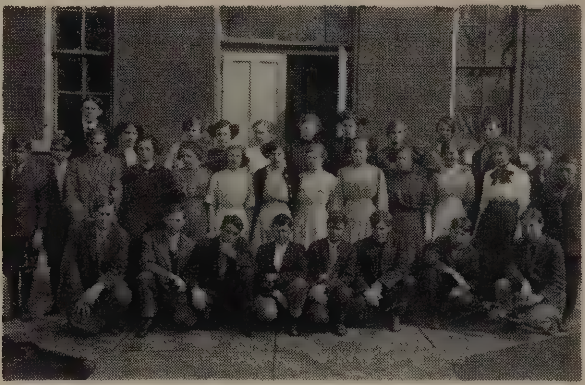

REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE.

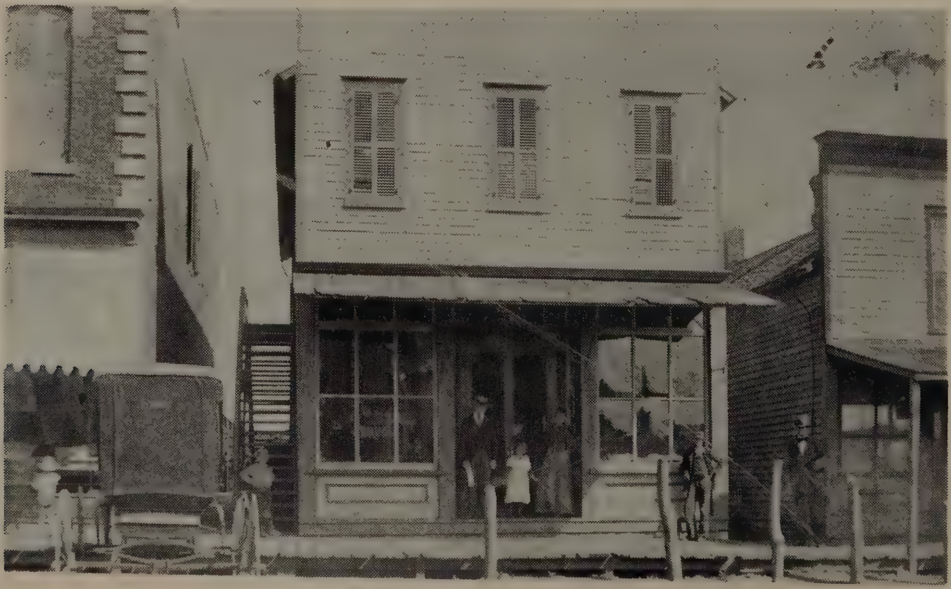
Elliott Bank Established 1884


PUBLIC SCHOOL

Public School, Elliott, 1912



Elliott High School, 1911-12



C. B. Halbert's Store, Elliott, Iowa, 1896

Centennial Greetings . . .

from all of us.

CONOCO

Front Row: Albert Campbell, Harlan Ebert, Jr., Connie Falkenhainer, Luther Hughes, Ward Grace.

Back Row: Lee Erickson, Roy Rasmussen, Harlan Ebert, Sr., Bill Breedlove, Louie Grace.

Not Pictured: Everett Shaw, Sr.

TEXACO

IOWA OIL CO.

CONOCO PRODUCTS

GRACE OIL CO.

TEXACO PRODUCTS

DEERING HARVESTING MACHINERY

Thomas Murray Implement Co., Elliott

Elliott enjoys the best drinking water you ever tasted. Come and try it. Many visitors call it the best drinking water they have ever tasted.

Elliott people are generous. The town has no record of having failed to raise its full quota for any public benefit or charitable purpose.

The Masonic lodge and a chapter of the Eastern Star are both well supported by residents of Elliott and nearby communities. The Masons own and have improved their building on Main street.

In Elliott's younger days a movement was started to move the town half a mile to the east on higher ground, but nothing came of the effort. It wouldn't have been a bad move.

News Items of Elliott from old Graphic files:

"Aug. 20, 1886 — Parties taking cows to and from pasture should be careful to keep them off the board walks, as we notice quite a number of boards broken by them through the town.

There was a special up Tuesday morning to accomodate old soldiers who wished to attend the reunion at Creston.

The following is a list of old soldiers from this part of the country attending the reunion at Creston this week: Dr. DeWitt, Frank Hubbard, A. A. Myers, F. M. Myers, Albert Wright, G. W. Allard, James Saint, S. J. Botts, Henry Howard, H. A. Embree, J. Leonard, Sim Hunt, J. Diamond, J. Wilson and S. D. Viers."

Rewritten from Graphic files, October 1930.

October 4, 1930, Elliott celebrated its "Golden Jubilee."

A crowd estimated at more than four thousand witnessed a historical parade, made up of old time scenes dating back half a century.

Prof. Royal Holbrook of Iowa State college gave the address. Mr. Holbrook's speech dealt with the early history of Iowa.

A barbeque was held in the evening. The committee had prepared to feed 2,000 visitors but the supply ran out before the big crowd had all been taken care of, and many did not get to join in the "free feed." The disappointed ones realized the situation and joined in the merriment just the same.

Picturesque Stennett

The town of Stennett, located seven miles northeast of Red Oak, is in section 27 of Sherman township. Part of the lots, at least, are from land which Wayne Stennett first owned.

This little settlement soon became a busy trading post. Nearby on the east Nishnabotna river two grist mills were built, using the water for power. Settlers from miles around brought their grains to these mills to be ground for flour and feed.

Daniel Stennett, who was the father of Wayne Stennett, was the first white settler in Sherman township. He located on section 26 in the year 1853. Daniel Stennett later operated a drug store in Villisca.

Sherman township was organized April 12, 1869. The only trustee's name appearing is that of Wayne Stennett. From this we gather that "Uncle Wayne," as he was affectionately known, was an important and influential citizen in the early history of the township.

Old Stone Houses

The first town meeting was held in the stone school house near Mr. Stennett's home and located on his farm in section 26. This stone school house still stands about a half a mile northeast of Stennett. It was enlarged for residence use. Flooding of the river in recent years forced its abandonment.

A large stone house of 12 rooms which still stands just southeast of the town was built by Wayne Stennett in 1869. Built of native limestone from his own quarry, the walls of this massive residence are 18 inches in thickness, gradually increasing to nearly 30 inches at the basement floor. Over the front door in glass panel can still be seen in bold lettering the name "W. Stennett." A walnut bannister and stairs lead to the upper floor.

Jason B. Packard, whose life was interwoven with the financial, educational, political and social affairs of the community, had notions of his own in regard to building, and insisted that ordinary

Built by Wayne Stennett, 1869

Rooms with Bath — Rooms with Running Water

Apartments

HOTEL COOPER

Red Oak Landmark

The Cooper Hotel, now operated by Mr. and Mrs. Dale Anderson, was formerly known as the Colonial Hotel.

The building is the old Burlington depot and was located west of the present C. B. & Q. freight depot. It was moved to its present location after the new highline went through, about 1903, and the new depot was built. Of frame construction, it housed a dining room on first floor, sleeping rooms on second floor. It was called the Depot Hotel, managed by Samuel Payne.

Thos. Griffith purchased the Hotel, and moved it intact to its present location. C. H. Kennedy of Broken Bow, Nebr. was the first manager. A "grand opening" was held on March 31, 1905, and dancing was enjoyed until a late hour.

During depression years the Murphy Co. leased the building as a girls dormitory. A number of years later Mr. and Mrs. Ben Cooper took over the management and renamed it the Cooper Hotel.

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AMERICA'S MOST COMPLETE LINE

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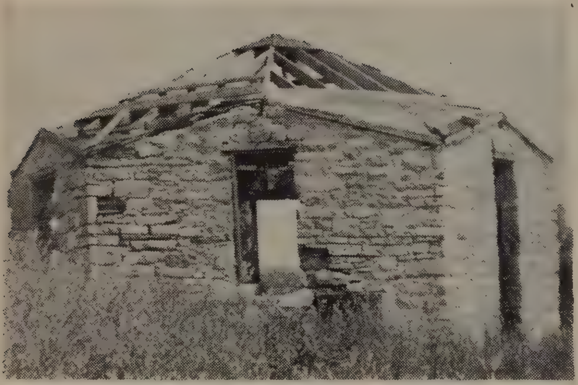
PETTY AUTOMOBILE CO.

Since 1911

Red Oak Iowa

Old Watson Mill, Stennett, Iowa



Ruins of Octogan House—Built by J. B. Packard, Stennett, Iowa.

Old School House Where First Town Meeting Was Held, Stennett, Iowa.

houses were constructed more for show than comfort. Consequently, he built on his farm near the old Watson Mill, north of Stennett, a stone house in the form of an octagon, the sides and angles being equal. The floor was of stone. The upper floor was suspended by wires stretched across from side to side, a space of about one foot being left at the outer edge of the floor to permit the heat to ascend to the upper room from a fireplace built into the wall. Some crumbling walls are all that is left of this old landmark.

Once an Active Center

In 1880 a railroad switch was installed at Stennett to accomodate the increased shipping of locally quarried limestone. Later on much livestock and grain was loaded here.

Also in 1880 H. P. Light, father of Mrs. Ella Moore and grandfather of Mrs. Eleanore Rea, established a general store in Stennett. Besides handling a stock of general merchandise, he was also postmaster. The post office occupied one corner of the store. Mail came by train from Red Oak twice a day.

The railroad station agent, who took great pride in keeping the depot neatly swept and all bills of lading and other important papers in order, was one of the interesting personages of the town. For several years, in the period back near the turn of the century, a civil war veteran named J. J. Abbott was custodian of this busy depot and freight office. He was the father of Mrs. Garnet Stratton of Red Oak and grandfather of Donald Stratton. A large picture he proudly displayed on the wall of the depot depicted a bloody civil war battle. Children of the neighborhood viewed the scene in awe as the old veteran described in his eastern accent, the battle action. He came to Stennett in 1889 and worked several years as a blacksmith before becoming depot agent for the railroad.

For many years a telephone exchange switchboard was operated in her home by Mrs. Levi Mick, mother of Claude Mick. She was a daughter of Allison Becknell, a pioneer settler just south of Stennett. As late as 1915 a log cabin stood near the present Becknell farm house just east of the Stennett school house.

Henry Becknell, brother of Mrs. Nick, once related that, as boys, he and his brother Ed used to go to the Wayne Stennett house to play with the latter's sons, Frank and Marion. At that time, the big stone house had a flat roof of gravel, and tar paper which was reached through a large trap door. The boys considered it great sport to play on the roof. The heavy iron dinner bell which was mount-

HISTORY OF UNION LODGE NO. 176

The first I. O. O. F. Lodge known as Red Oak Lodge No. 176 was instituted August 25, 1869. Charter issued October 20, 1869. The second I. O. O. F. Lodge known as Montgomery Lodge No. 357 was instituted during the term ending, December 31, 1878.

The two Lodges were consolidated July 24, 1883 to be known as Union Lodge No. 176.

The following were officers of the new Union Lodge No. 176 when the two Lodges were consolidated: H. C. French, N. G.; C. W. Allen, V. G.; C. A. Hough, R. S.; B. J. Austin, F. S.; D. B. Gun, Treas.; Gus Isold, Warden; Swan Nordquist, Conductor; W. A. Harding, R. S. N. G.; W. H. Evans, L. S. N. G.; H. Pegsaw, R. S. V. G.; V. Horton, L. S. V. G.; Trustees: P. J. Farnam, B. B. Porter, and W. S. Strann.

Meets every Tuesday evening at 8:00 o'clock.

The present Hall was built in 1897.

The new officers for the present term are: Harrison Wright, P. G.; Claude Pollard, N. G.; Gordon Hodgson, V. G.; Otto C. Pierson, R. S. N. G.; Glen Ashby, L. S. N. G.; William Breedlove, Warden; Robert Hultquist, Conductor; M. Lindner, I. G.; O. C. Durham, O. G.; Bert Woodin, Chaplain; Lou Pratt, R. S. S.; Chas. Silket, L. S. S.; Darwin Anderson, R. S. V. G.; James Hatfield, L. S. V. G.; Marvin Wallin, R. S.; Ed. Johnson, F. S.; Ernest Hunter, Treas.; Justus Cleaver, Glen Ashby and Ernest Comstock, Trustees.

The Encampment and Canton are other branches of the order.

THROUGH THE YEARS WITH FAITH REBEKAH LODGE

Faith Rebekah Lodge No. 174, I.O.O.F., Red Oak, Iowa, was organized Dec. 19, 1892 by the authority of a dispensation instituted by John W. Buenn, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Iowa. Faith Rebekah Lodge No. 174 was duly instituted by District Deputy Grand Master J. F. Spare, with the following charter members: Ed. Kretchmer, Caroline Kretchmer, G. Loeb, Addie Loeb, J. T. Keckley, Lizzie Keckley, S. S. Davis, Libbie Davis, Chas. Pratt, Clara Pratt, Wm. Gotobed, Carrie Gotobed, B. F. Koons, Catherine Koons, Norman Rogers, Eliza Rogers, H. F. Koch, Lisette Koch, G. Isold, Alwilde Fraser, J. V. Horton, Taylor Gilchrist, Fred Pratt, Lizzie Pratt. First officers elected to this lodge were E. Kretchmer, Noble Grand; Lizzie J. Keckley, Vice-Grand; Alwilde Fraser, Secretary; Caroline Kretchmer, Treasurer.

There are several members nearing the fifty year period as members of this Lodge. We have two 50-year members, Mrs. Ella Beeson and Mrs. Mary Chapman. Mrs. Maggie Kidder, Josephine Clites and Mina Patterson are nearing the fifty-year mark. Mr. Dan Gunn, a Past Grand Master and a devoted Rebekah for many years, wrote the degree work as dramatized by our Faith Rebekah Lodge as we present it now.

Present officers of Faith Rebekah Lodge No. 174 are: Hattie Ashby, Noble Grand; Gladys Wright, Vice-Grand; Myrtle Hatfield, Secretary; Stella Kelsay, Treasurer; and Amanda Allen, Financial Secretary.

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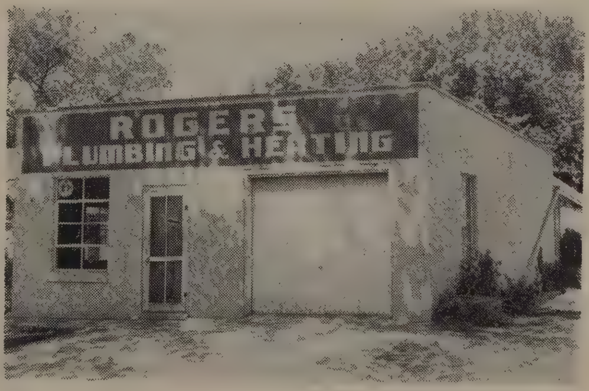

New Installations

Repairing

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In Business in Red Oak for Over 50 Years

Prompt 24-Hour Repair Service

ed on sturdy wooden framework near the back porch could be heard for miles calling in heavy melodic tones for men in the fields to come home for meals. A 50 foot rock-walled well was conveniently located inside this porch. It was equipped with the then well-known oaken bucket. What a refreshing drink was afforded by the dripping oaken buckets that came zooming up from the cool depths of the rock bound well!

In 1928 a cyclonic wind blew the old bell to the ground. It was later given to the Stennett Consolidated school where it was put into use and still stands. The well beneath the porch went dry in the early 1920's and so was abandoned.

Many carloads of grain were shipped each year through the elevator which still stands. A large lumber yard furnished building and fencing material for surrounding territory. Coal sheds, with several carloads capacity, were the source of fuel supply.

Modern Trends

In 1918 the Farmers Mercantile Co. of Red Oak purchased the town's several enterprises from the Goods. In 1936 H. B. Turner and Delbert Holtmyer bought the interests of the Mercantile Company. The lumber yard was discontinued and the building removed. As hog buying was not carried on and since most livestock was shipped to market by truck at this time, the railroad soon sold the stockyards and depot.

In 1943 W. C. Baker bought the store and elevator from Mr. Holtmyer. In 1950 the stone store, a landmark of the township for well over half a century, burned and was not restored.

Gerald Milner of Elliott later bought the elevator and now operates it as a shipping outlet on the railroad and for loading his grain trucks. He has installed a large truck scales near the former site of the lumber yard.

In 1919 a consolidated school district was voted with a new building erected at Stennett in 1920. The land upon which the building stands was purchased from the Becknell family. The playground includes some of the original land owned by Wayne Stennett.

With the advent of the modern car and truck and development of hard surfaced roads, the town of Stennett has seen most of its businesses dwindle and die. Only those who experienced life in the heyday of the town, can visualize what once was a busy, thriving village in Sherman township in section 27.

Stratton Community

THE STRATTON CHURCH

by Cora M. Granson

The church on the hill
Where the highways meet
Is a beacon light to weary feet
Its beams shine forth o'er the
country wide
To living lost souls to the Saviour's
side.

Oh, I love that old church on the
hill
It brings back sweet memories
to me
Through childhood and youth
It guided my feet
So I'll love it till Jesus I see.

Stratton Community Built Around Church

In the early days when the first settlers came to the Iowa prairie, there were no land marks of any kind, so by mutual agreement boundaries were made and farms chosen. Later, land was offered for sale by the government at $1.25 per acre, surveys were made and settlers came fast.

In the fall of 1870, two young men from Illinois, Henry Kneedy and William Baker, came to Montgomery county in search of land suitable for homes. Mr. Baker chose his farm from the section on which the Stratton church now stands, and Mr. Kneedy selected the land directly south of Mr. Baker's. There were other early settlers who, no doubt, contributed much to the community, but the date of their coming is uncertain.

Probably the first community project in what is now known as Stratton was a day school taught by Henry Kneedy in his own home. This school soon outgrew the accomodations offered by the home and a school house was built which became a community center. A Literary Society was organized and held its meetings there; it became the home for religious services, Sunday school and union church services.

Among the ministers preaching in the school house were William Yockey, Mr. Bourne, A. C. Rawls, and C. L. Stratton.

Through the religious zeal and untiring efforts of Mr. Stratton to promote the spiritual welfare of the community, a Methodist Episcopal church was organized. In 1889, articles of incorporation were drawn up and plans made for the building of a church. Mr. Wm. Baker donated the land for the building site. Subscriptions ranging from 25 cents to $100.00 amounted to $1,688.32, which was the total cost of the new building. It was dedicated August 17, 1890 as the Stratton church. Mr. T. M. Stewart preached the dedicatory sermon.

The church was placed on a circuit with Elliott, Red Oak and Coburg. Later it was put on what was known as the Red Oak circuit and one pastor served Frankfort, Stratton and Hawthorne. After the closing of the Frankfort church the Stennett Community Church became a part of the Red Oak circuit.

A Loyal Community

On Sunday evening, May 9, 1913, the church was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. The following day while the embers were still burning, members and friends of the congregation gathered to view the ruins and discuss the disaster. With no soliciting, volunteer pledges for $1,530.00 were made, and this with $1,000.00 insurance was a substantial foundation for the cost of a new church that was begun immediately. A tabernacle was erected in the school yard across the road, and was completed in time for worship services the very next Sunday.

The new church was dedicated on December 7, 1913. It has met all the needs of the community; the youth have received training for Christian leadership; before its altar they have taken their marriage vows; from this hallowed place have been buried loved ones.

As time passes on and generations come and go, Stratton church and community lives on—enthusiastic and devoted laborers, loyal men and women alert in the work of furthering the Kingdom of Heaven.

Stratton Church, 1890

Grand Theatre

Established Nov. 1930

Red Oak Drive-In Theatre

Highway 34

For the

LATEST and BEST

in

ENTERTAINMENT

Best Wishes Montgomery County

for the

2nd Hundred Years

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The name Burnison stands for quality, reliability and progress in the millwork line.

Anyone desiring or expecting to need work of this nature should consult them. The management would be pleased to estimate with you on any contract.

It is a pleasure for us to point to this concern as one of the leading enterprises of this section and to say they are eminently fair and honest as well as progressive. They are rapidly winning for themselves the reputation of being the leader in this special field.

When you let your contract to this firm, you will not only get good work but quality materials, for Mr. Glenn H. Burnison knows the business thoroughly and insists his customers get the best.

Phones 2815 or 3388 for estimates or work. Located at 807 Broadway in Red Oak.

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Red Oak, Iowa

Wash and Grease — Tires and Batteries

Donald R. Huddle, Lessee

Pioneer Days in Washington Township

They say the first hundred years are the hardest and no doubt this has proven true, for the pioneers who settled in Montgomery county had little but hardships in those first trying years.

Washington township settlers first had the idea of devoting a few acres for a townsite at Arlington about 1857. This was heavy timbered land and they thought it the best location. It didn't materialize, however, for Villisca got to be the flourishing town of the Nodaway valley and Arlington was just an obsolete spot.

The first settler in Washington township was Sam Moore who settled there in 1850. But another old history says he came in 1853 from the eastern part of Iowa. His name does not appear among the voters in the county in 1853, and Isaac Bolt, originally from Kentucky, settled in section 16, in 1851, having walked from St. Joseph, Mo., then a trading post. He carried provisions from St. Joe and had decided when his provisions gave out, that was where he would stop, and that point happened to be in Washington township. He had nothing to lose and everything to gain, for he carried all of his belongings in a bandana handkerchief. He gained — taking over 1,000 acres of government land. He built the old homestead on the original ground now owned by the J. P. Mayhew estate, J. P. Mayhew being the father of Harry P. Mayhew, present county assessor of Montgomery county. This portion of the land carries but one transfer in all those years, a record which is hard to beat—the transfer being from the Isaac Bolt estate to J. P. Mayhew. Isaac Bolt, grandfather of Darleen Luppold, was the first man arrested in Montgomery county, an incident which was often recalled by him in humorous talks to old timers. He came from a place where they settled their own disputes. His arrest was for fighting.

In 1854 the first post office in the county was established at Sciola with Chauncey Sager, postmaster. Sam Riggs, a Democrat, took the contract to carry the mail, and he carried it on horseback once a week.

After the settlement of pioneers grew and homes were established, stage coaches made their advent as a means of travel. The Western Stage went through this section and Washington township was one of the points where horses and drivers were changed.

The pioneers who blazed the trail on the lonesome mid-west prairies also had time for get-togethers. Dances then known as "hoe downs" were generally held when a settler built a new barn. That was the dedication. The dance generally ended with a wild turkey supper. Bob-sled rides also came in for the pleasure events.

Grandma Wheeler

An event of more than ordinary interest occurred at the home of Merritt Wheeler when the 100th birthday of his mother, Mrs. Polly Wheeler was celebrated. A big tent was put up for the 800 people who attended the celebration. She was born in Connecticut July 24, 1800 and had the unique distinction of having lived in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries and of having lived under every national administration except that of Washington. "Grandma" Wheeler, as she was familiarly called, was the mother of 10 children. She weighed only 70 pounds and one of her greatest enjoyments was smoking a little clay pipe. She enjoyed a smoke on the 100th birthday celebration. She was seven years old when Robert Fulton propelled the first steamer up the Hudson.

Prairie schooners, covered wagons, wolves and cow bells just make history for 'Young America.' This is 1953.

Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Henry and Mrs. George R. Logan came to Red Oak on the first passenger train into town in 1869.

Grandma Wheeler's 100th Birthday Party

Montgomery County Medical Society

Yesterday and Today

On February 10, 1866, Montgomery, Taylor, Adams and Page County Doctors got together and organized the Southwest Iowa Medical Society. They elected Dr. I. L. Barrett of Clarinda, President, and Dr. J. C. Holes of Clarinda, Secretary.

This was the beginning of organized medicine in Southwest Iowa and continued until August 21, 1903, and Doctors in Montgomery County got together and organized Montgomery County Medical Society, with about twenty members. The first officers elected were M. McNaughton, Villisca, President, and W. A. Lomas, Villisca, Secretary-Treasurer. The County Society has been continuously active and now has fourteen members as follows:

Oscar Alden, M. D., Red Oak, Iowa, President and Councillor to the Iowa State Medical Society for the 11th District.

E. M. Sorensen, M.D., Red Oak, Vice-President.

S. Rodmond Smith, M.D., Red Oak, Secretary-Treasurer.

Edw. Croxdale, M. D., Villisca, Delegate to Iowa State Medical Society.

Gladys Cooper, M.D., Red Oak.

Harold Bastron, M. D., Red Oak.

J. Clarke Cooper, M.D., Villisca.

Dallas York, M.D., Villisca.

S. Poore, M.D., Villisca.

F. S. Williams, M.D., Villisca.

Thos. Thomsen, M.D., Red Oak.

B. F. Gillmor, M. D., Red Oak.

F. A. Hansen, M.D., Red Oak.

L. R. Moriarity, University of Kansas, Kansas City, Kans.

George W. Egermayer, Elliott, Iowa.

Over SIXTY Years in Business

Red Oak Printing Co.

411 Coolbaugh St.

Printing

Office Supplies

Portable Typewriters

Adding Machines

Llew, Laura, Jack and Kathleen

Dilley

they bought
their diamonds
from us in
those days
too . . .

WE HAVE BEEN IN
THE JEWELRY BUSINESS
51 YEARS!

Coles Jewelry

Red Oak, Iowa

Go West Young Man, Go West!

Steve Shield's first automobile.

On July 3, 1854, West Township was constituted as a civil township. On that same date an election was ordered held at the house of James Shanks, which was a log cabin near the old railroad depot, on the first Monday in August next, for the purpose of electing township officers. At this election there were eight voters, six Democrats and two Whigs as follows: Daniel Stennett and son, Wayne Stennett, James Shank and son, G. A. Gordon, Joseph Zuber, Stephen Lane and one other name, unknown. Wayne Stennett cast the only vote for the Maine liquor law—a measure restricting the sale of liquor. G. A. Gordon remarked when the result of the election was announced that he didn't think there was many among them fool enough to cast such a vote. No returns of the above mentioned election appear on the records. However, we find that T. A. Petty was appointed in 1856 as agent to sell liquor in West Township for medical, mechanical and religious purposes. That this business prospered is noted when a motion was made by the trustees that the sum of $293.13 be allowed in payment for liquor bought for the above purposes. Thus it appears that the county itself was engaged in the liquor business—especially for religious purposes.

The Township was a progressive one for we find in 1859 that B. F. Runnells was allowed $85.00 for building a bridge across Walnut Creek, the County retaining that amount out of the bridge fund.

About this time G. W. Hunt and Charles Montgomery were appointed constables for West Township. Isaac Hunt appears as assessor in 1861 and Perry Carr as clerk. Wm. A. Mahan was re-elected as member of the county board for 1862, but refused to qualify; the county board declared a vacancy; the township trustees appointed Perry Carr; he was sworn in by the county board and served that year. At the same meeting that Carr

1886 picture above is the half-way house, then owned by the Carr family, where the freighters and travelers stopped for the night in the days of the stage coach. The trail crossed the Missouri river on a ferry at Nebraska City. The farm on which the house stood is now owned by Henry Wookey. Pictured left to right are Geo. Wookey, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Wookey, Henry Wookey, Ed Wookey, Ellen Fisher, and a niece from England.

Always Ready To Serve You

With Famous Name Apparel

Swanson Clothing Co.

RED OAK, IOWA

V. C. OVERTURF

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Dial 3108 Red Oak, Iowa

HEATING AND PLUMBING

Ko-Z-Aire Furnaces

Hardware

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MILLEDGE HARDWARE

East Side of Square

Hair Cutting and Styling

RUBY'S BEAUTY SHOP

Ruby Breese — Dial 4475

Realistic Permanents, Roux Tints, Manicures

Art Elwood Melvin Howard

SEE US TODAY

Conoco's "Safety-First" Service

Goodrich Tires Batteries

Accessories

Specialist in Waxing & Polishing

E & H Conoco Service

Second & Oak Streets Red Oak, Iowa

Salem Church

took his seat Daniel Stennett resigned as member. I. C. Hunt was assessor of West Township in 1862; Perry Carr was clerk, and also justice of the peace.

West Township, substantially as now constituted, was organized in 1861. The first Trustees were: John Culver, Thomas Myers, Isaac Vanhorn; first clerk, Perry Carr. There were nine school districts in the township and the total school tax levy the previous year was 6 5/8 mills on the dollar. The equalized value of real estate in 1861 was $14.00 per acre.

Half Way House

The stage coach went through West Township in the 1800's. Also freight was hauled over that same route by wagon from Des Moines to Nebraska City. The half-way house, an Inn or Tavern then owned by the Carr family, is where freighters and travelers stopped for the night. This farm is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wookey, who live there. The trail went down through what is now the Frank Norris and Very Querry farms, crossed Walnut Creek and on west to cross the Missouri river on a ferry at Nebraska City. It is reported that there were a great many rough characters around in those days.

By September 20, 1880, West Township had nine ungraded schools, six male and twelve female teachers; 172 boys and 155 girls of school age of whom 314 were enrolled and an average of 162 attended school. The average cost per pupil per month for tuition was $1.51. There were nine frame schoolhouses, valued at $3,750.00. $320 worth of school appartus reported in West Township.

Maple Leaf Grange No. 395 was organized May 18, 1872 with 26 charter members and is credited to Montgomery County, although its postoffice was Franklin Grove in Page County. On June 30, 1874 it reported 40 members with C. S. Woodin, Master, and J. C. Benz, Secretary.

The Climax Methodist Protestant church was organized in 1856. In the summer of 1875 a frame church edifice was built at a cost of about $3,000.00, and it was dedicated in 1878 by Rev. Alexander Clark from Pittsburg. The membership was about 30.

The Methodist Episcopal Church (at Carr's school house) was organized about January 1865. The original members were W. G. Ewing and wife, Perry Carr and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Parish, Mrs. J. Culver, Charles Hascall and wife, Mrs. G. Figgins, and Mr. Cunningham and wife. This society held its church services in different school houses.

Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Woodin and children, Ed, Jess, Bert and Fanny. Picture taken in 1887.

Methodist Episcopal church (at the Sutton school house) was organized in 1871. First members: C. Hascall annd wife, J. Roosa and wife, J. H. Carr and wife, H. J. Carr, Wm. Allen and wife, Mrs. O. A. Carr, W H. Permfield and wife, Jane Ewing and Nancy Ewing.

Salem Church located in West Township, six and one-half miles southwest of Red Oak was organized in 1888 by Evangelical people from the eastern part of the state, who at that time settled in the immediate vicinity. M. P. Giles and wife, Jacob and Simon Rost and families, Mrs. P. E. Buchanan, and Mother Bruce were among the early promoters of the Salem church. Though the church has since been disposed of, Salem cemetery which lies immediately across the public highway from Salem Church is the burial place of many who formerly lived in West Township. This country burying place is kept in fine condition by the Salem Cemetery Association, a perpetual fund provided by the people of the community for this purpose.

The first cemetery was near the center of Section 30, on Mr. David's farm, but it has not been used for two years. The one now used is on Mr. Hascall's land in Section 18.

In 1886, July 4th was first celebrated in Climax.

First Events

Stephen Glanden appears to have been the first settler in the territory now comprised in West Township. He came from Wapello county, Iowa, in 1852 and settled on section 31 of what is now Walnut Township (almost on the line between Walnut and West), and then in 1854 he moved onto Section 25 in present West Township. Mr. Glanden has related that the first

CLIMAX CO-OPERATIVE CO

Climax store of many years ago. It burned to the ground in 1936.

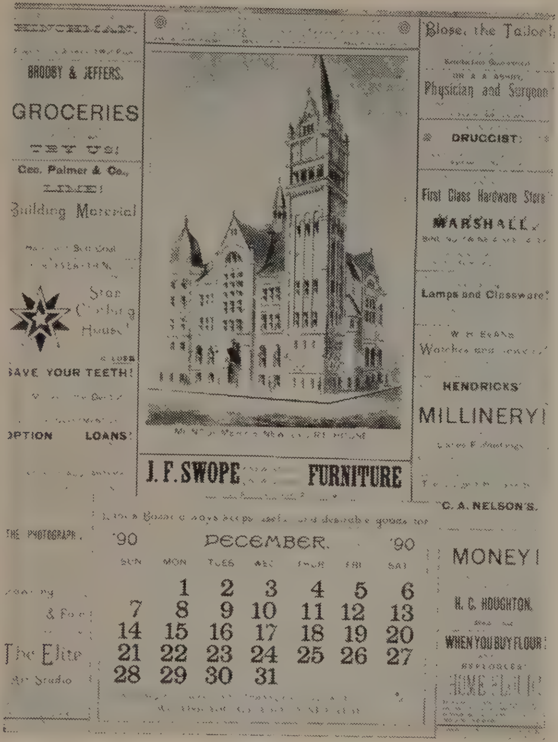
Since 1890, Red Oak has been

The Birthplace of the Art Calendar Industry

The Thos. D. Murphy Co.

1889-1953 An Industry Leader

for 65 Years.


BRODBY & JEFFERS.
GROCERIES
TRY US!
Geo. Palmer & Co.,
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Building Material
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SAVE YOUR TEETH!
OPTION LOANS!
THE PHOTOGRAPH.
The Elite Art Studio
Blose, the Tailor!
Physician and Surgeon
DRUGGIST
First Class Hardware Store
MARSHALL
Lamps and Glassware!
Watches and Jewelry
HENDRICKS'
MILLINERY!
C. A. NELSON'S.
MONEY!
H. C. HOUGHTON.
WHEN YOU BUY FLOUR
HOME FLOUR
J. F. SWOPE FURNITURE

'90 DECEMBER. '90

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

In 1889, two young men were having a difficult time operating a country newspaper and financial difficulties forced them to devise a new idea to sell to their customers. Thomas D. Murphy was one of these men and the new idea was the art calendar.

That first art calendar, which is illustrated above, has been followed by many improvements. The advent of engraving processes and the development of color photography has made possible the beautiful full-color reproductions which today grace Murphy art calendars.

The Thos. D. Murphy Co. has a truly modern plant with all the up-to-date equipment necessary to produce the finest type of color printing. Our watchword at all times has been quality and our work is handled by long-time employees who are real craftsmen.

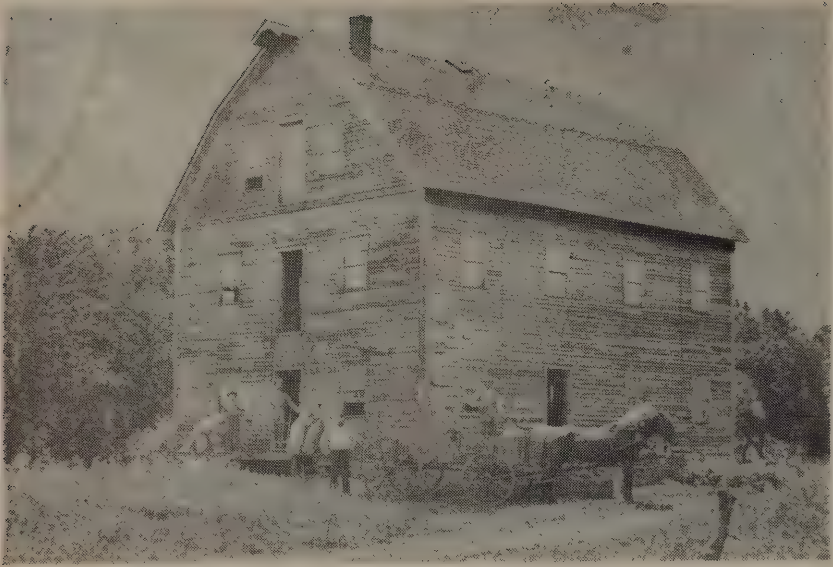
The many years of experience that the Murphy Co. has had in serving the advertising needs of its customers enables it to uphold the high standard of quality which has characterized the company since its beginning.

The original incorporators of the Murphy Company were the late Thos. D. Murphy and his brother-in-law, William Cochrane. The present corporate officers are Malcolm D. Lomas, President, and Chairman of the Board; George E. Wood, Vice-President; Henry L. Heckert, Vice-President; Bruce Van Druff, Secretary; Thomas A. Wright, Treasurer.

In addition to a complete line of exclusive art calendars, the Murphy company markets special calendars, map calendars, booklets, blotters, fans, gift leather, gift food items, advertising pencils and pens, and practical specialties of all designs and types.

Serving the Advertising Needs of the Nation . . . . .

. . . . . THE THOS. D. MURPHY CO., Red Oak, Iowa



The old Grist Mill on Walnut Creek at Climax in 1888.

marriage in the township was John Denway to Miss Mary Burnside; they were married at Climax in 1856 by Elder Hunt of the Protestant Methodist church. The first birth in the township were twins of Mrs. Oliver Gilbreth, one died when one week old and the other one when three months old. They were buried on Section 29. The first preaching was at Mr. Glanden's house by Elder Hunt. The first school taught on section 29 by Miss Sarene Dean from Rock Island; she had seven pupils, received $8.00 per month, taught eleven months and boarded around with the scholars. The first two school houses were built in 1858 on sections 4 and 30 both by a man named Bundle, and each cost $537.00.

The first weaving of cloth was done by Mrs. Annie Glanden, but Mrs. Lucinda Wax also wove about the same time.

Frank Norris, who was 81 in March, reports that he was born in Ohio in 1872. He came to Climax in 1881 with his parents and settled on the farm there, which is now owned by Mrs. Harry Faunce and operated by N. W. Settell. Mr. Norris recalls that the only bridge (iron) across Walnut Creek at that time was in Climax. His father was a farmer and the men with covered wagons would stop there for the night. When they asked for hay for their horses, Mr. Norris would tell them that they could have all they could carry for ten cents. He had six acres of board fence on his farm and people would come from miles around to see it because there were no fences in those days. The first wire fence was just a single smooth wire with posts about three to five rods apart. Frank Norris recalls the Maytag auto Steve Shields owned and says they could hear him climb every hill on his way to Red Oak. Though there was once a blacksmith shop, store, telephone office and many homes in Climax, all that remains now is one house, the farm and the church.

Although a sawmill had been in operation on Walnut Creek since 1866, the Grist Mill (a mill for grinding grain) was not built until 1875 by Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Bridge, former West township residents, who now live in Emerson. It was first a saw mill but later burs were added to grind grain. Folks would sometimes have to wait two or three days for their grain, so Climax was a busy place. It was on Walnut Creek and was run by a water wheel and operated by W. A. Grover. In 1875 they ran more days a year than any mill in Montgomery county, grinding seventy bushels of wheat and one hundred bushels of corn per day.

T. J. Birbeck, who no doubt is the oldest resident of West township, for he will soon be eighty-two, has contributed pictures for this edition.

Montgomery County Farm Bureau

The first Montgomery County agricultural organization originated in Red Oak in August, 1912. and was called the Farm Improvement Association.

A number of interested farmers met at the close of an afternoon session at the Red Oak Chautauqua Park and proceeded to form an organization of Montgomery County farmers. Directors for many of the townships were named and Frank Iddings was elected president.

Through the efforts of Judge H. E. Deemer and Mrs. E. P. Milner, Sears Roebuck Co. offered to give $1000.00 to aid the new farm organization and the Burlington Railroad gave $200.00 to assist in the work. Later the Bureau received the allotment provided by legislative act.

It is interesting to note that Rex J. Davidson was named the first county agent in 1912, and that only the following four men have held that position since: Frank Barker, George Dillion, Vince Anderson and Stan Dunn.

The old family home of Geo. Bishop and family about 1900. Mrs. Geo. Bishop, Walter and Dewey.

CTION CO.
4 RED OAK IA

L. D. PRATT

Pratt Construction Co.

M. L. PRATT

Lew has been in contracting business for 51 years. He is the third generation following his father and grandfather. He started the vault and septic tank business in Red Oak in 1924.

Merwyn is the 4th generation in this business. He has been associated with his father in construction work for 31 years, starting at the age of 14. He formed the Pratt Construction Co. in 1950 of which he and L. D. Pratt are co-owners.

Vaults
Septic Tanks

PRATT CONSTRUCTION CO.
Red Oak, Iowa—Dial 9205

Rentals
Estimates

We have the right experience and the right equipment.

Our Motto—"Good Service at Reasonable Price"

Starting Our 25th Year . . .

Higher Quality

at a

Lower Price

ALLEN

3

302

2

CROSS

Allen Hatchery

South on 48 Dial 3441

Red Oak, Iowa

Congratulations

Montgomery County on its

Centennial Anniversary

Foley Implement

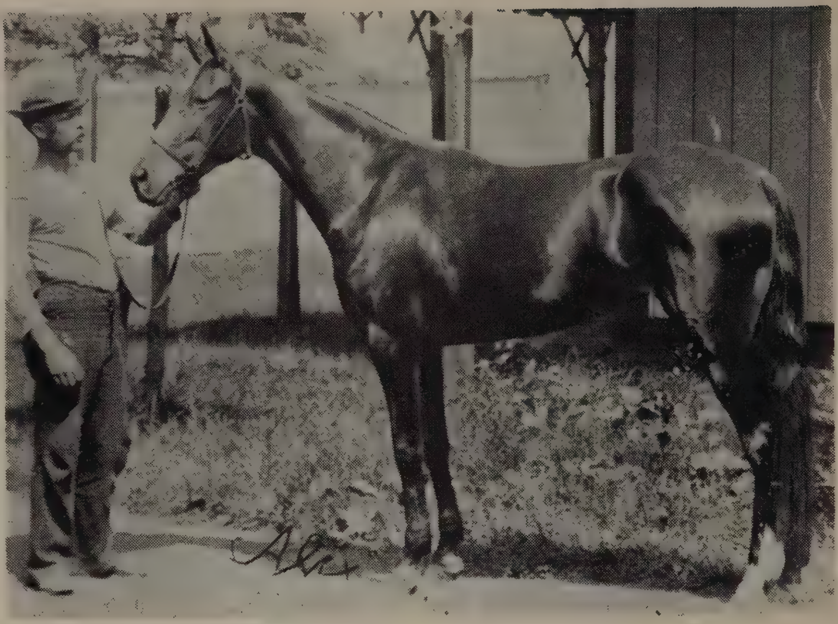
711 Broadway

OLIVER AND MOLINE EQUIPMENT

Finest in

FARM MACHINERY

A Half Century of County Fairs



"Alix," Queen of the Trotters.

The first fair held in Montgomery county was at the old town of Frankfort in 1859. Mrs. Ellen T. Lawrence relates that she and John Harris were judges of the "pantry store" which consisted of the butter and cheese made by Mr. Whittier.

The fair proper was enclosed with a rope supported on stakes. Within this enclosure was a reaper, the first and only in the county, and mower. The old Kentucky Harvester was brought in wagons from St. Joe by J. H. Bean and A. P. Whittier. John Bolt brought from the valley of the Nodaway two brood mares, which took the premium and a few head of cattle. E. F. Murray had a span of work horses that took the premium. Mr. Whittier had six thoroughbred Durham (Shorthorn) cattle that he had just brought to Montgomery county. Samuel M. Smith of Milford exhibited the only hogs at that fair.

The fair was the first event that brought all of the people together. When the war came, the minds of the people were diverted to other channels, and a decade elapsed before another attempt was made to organize a county fair. However, in the fall of 1869 a fair quite similar to the first, but more pretentious, was held in the public square. Three years afterward the Southwestern Iowa Fair Association was organized. H. N. Moore was the principal promoter in this enterprise, H. W. Otis was president, Richard Wadsworth, treasurer, and E. Kretchmer, secretary. In the fall of 1873 this society held a fair on the open prairie north of the forty acre tract subsequently used for fair grounds.

Another decade passed without any substantial progress being made in establishing a fair on a firm basis. But in July 1879 a few enterprising citizens of Red Oak met to organize the Agricultural Society. They immediately purchased forty acres of ground on which to hold the exhibition (west of the city of Red Oak at the north side of Coolbaugh street).

In 1880, the society was enrolled as a member of the "National Trotting Association," with the Red Oak branch comprising most of the members. A jockey club was known as the "Red Oak Driving Park Association." The fair had its successes and failures, more of the latter than the former, and it voluntarily went out of business and the land, building and all other property sold, the stockholders realizing about fifty per cent on their original investment.

In 1893, Morris Jones, president of the Standard Trotting Horse Company, moved his breeding stables and trotters to Red Oak from Kenosha, Wisconsin. Mr. Jones proceeded to build up an institution devoted to raising and training horses. A suitable place was selected and purchased adjoining the city of Red Oak on the north and named Pactolus Park in honor of a celebrated trotter owned by Mr. Jones. A regulaion mile track was made, a spacious amphitheatre built and suitable barns and three hundred box stalls made ready for occupancy.

Mr. Jones invited attention to his park by offering premiums of $20,000.00 divided into seventeen racing events. Entries to these races were from eighteen different states—including Texas, California, New York and Canada. The first day, Marcus Daly's Lady Wilton made the fastest time, 2:15. There was assembled a greater aggregation of these noble animals than had ever before been known—this was conceded by horsemen.

Here it was that that brave little mare, Queen Alix, the sweetest dispositioned animal in the world was trained before entering upon the campaign that crowned her "Queen of the Turf," her racing time being 2:03¾.

Unfortunately the climax of this venture came when on the day that the most notable events were to be held and there was present in Red Oak the largest number of people from surrounding cities and states ever assembled here at one time, a drenching rain came which threw a damper on competitors and deprived the promoter of many thousands of dollars that otherwise would have been gathered in. This fact, associated with other financial misfortunes, caused Mr. Jones to yield his park into other hands.

In 1901 a county fair association was again created, and continued through 1905.

"The County Fair"

Related by Dr. Dearborn

At fair season, countless "hacks" would arrive on the unpaved streets of the Square, these being long vehicles, horse drawn, and they would carry many passengers. The fare was about ten cents each way and much shouting was done to entice customers to the various hacks.

There were running races and trotting races and in the early days none but the high wheeled sulkies were used. The brightly polished spokes flashed in the sun as they whizzed around the track. Ere long the sulkies appeared with the bicycle wheels of the present time and soon the old wooden wheel sulkies were completely discarded.

Congratulations to Montgomery County on Its 100th Anniversary

THE RED OAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

IS PROUD TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ORGANIZING THIS CENTENNIAL.

May our great county continue to develop and prosper in the coming 100 years through the harmony and united effort of all our people.

100th Anniversary Greetings and

a word of thanks to Montgomery county which has made my business a success.

Harold Bush Plumbing & Heating

We sell and install Crane products

413 Reed St. Red Oak

PETERSON MOTOR CO.

Ralph L. Peterson

Dealer in Allis Chalmers & J. I. Case

Farm Machinery — Nash Cars

PETERSON APPLIANCE

Marion E. Peterson

Dealer in Electrical Appliances

G.E. & R.C.A. Televisions

304 - 308 Hammond St. Red Oak

On Highway 34, ½ Mile East Red Oak

MRS. MARGARET WALTZ

Registered Spencer Corsetiere—Dealer in individually designed

SPENCER SUPPORTS

Phone 9659

HAROLD'S CONOCO SERVICE

2nd and Reed Dial 9844

Red Oak, Iowa

ARTZ DRUG CO.

The Rexall Store

Red Oak, Iowa

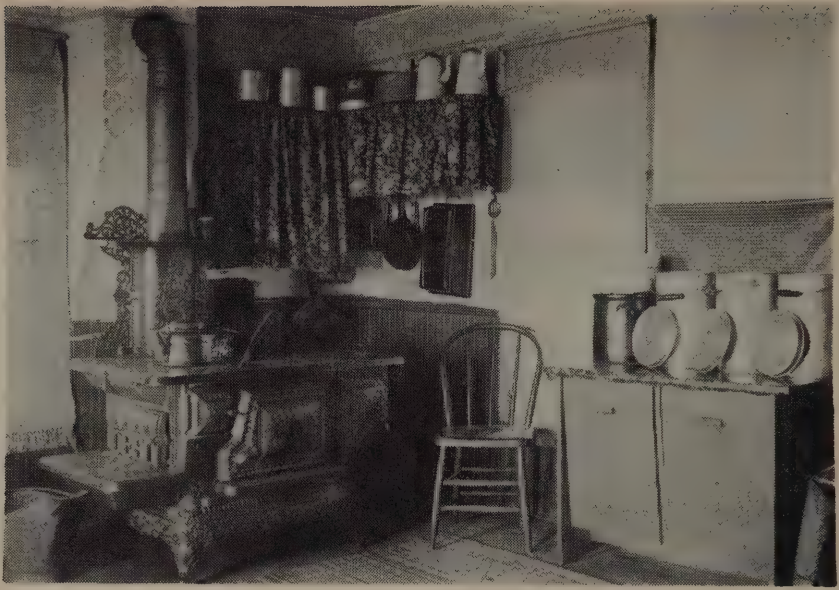
GRIFFITH HOTEL

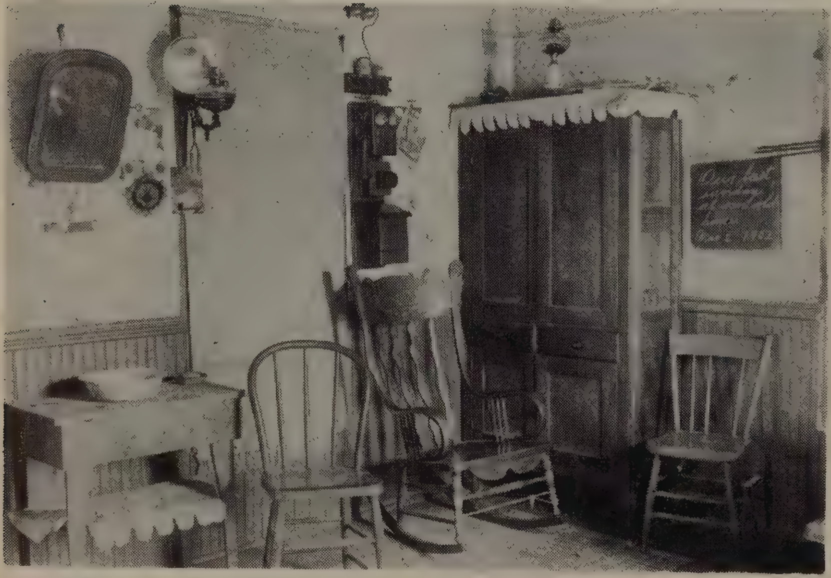
Across from Post Office

BESSIE M. FERGUSON, Prop.

In business over 50 years—Red Oak, Iowa

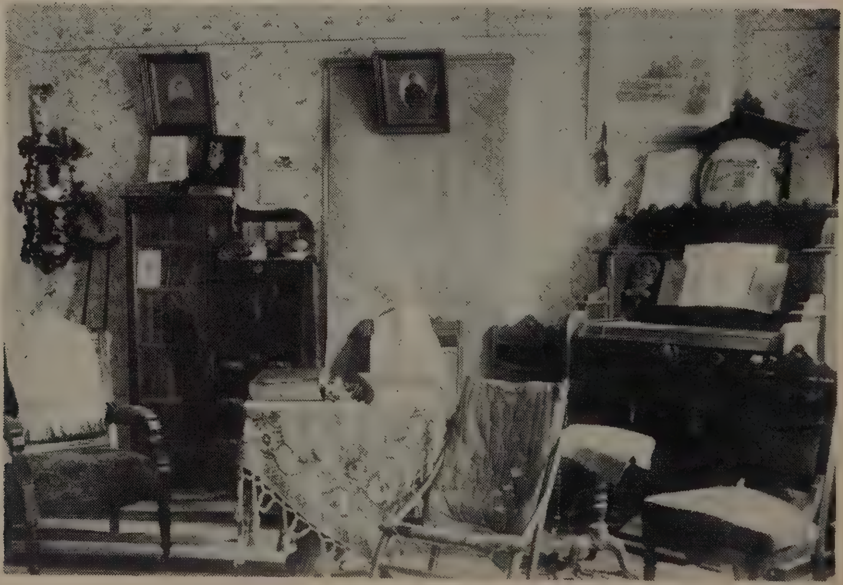
Interior Scenes
of a
Farm Home





at the
Turn

of the
Century



R.K.BELT IMPLEMENT CO.

Oldsmobile

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R. K. BELT IMPLEMENT CO.

Phone 2539 Red Oak 608 Second St.

ELM TREE COURT

For "Close-In" Accommodations

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COMPLETELY MODERN

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Phone 4602

1 Block East of Junction 34-48

Red Oak, Iowa

LOGAN & JENKINS

Highway 48 — Standard Service
Expert Wash and Lube Service
Red Oak, Iowa

PORTER'S

Lawnmower and Saw Shop
Guaranteed

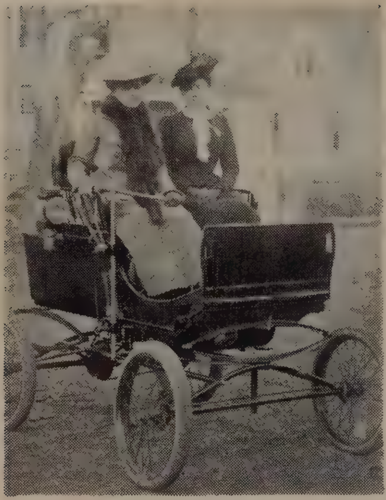
203 W. Reed St. Dial 2118

JONES STORE

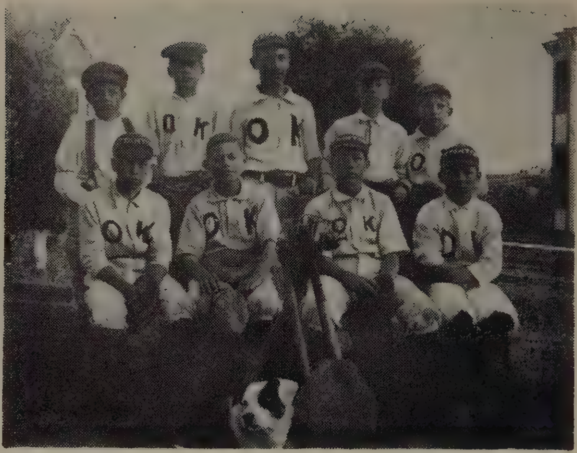
Implements
Plumbing and Heating — L.P. Gas
Grant, Iowa

BROWN'S PRODUCE & FEEDS

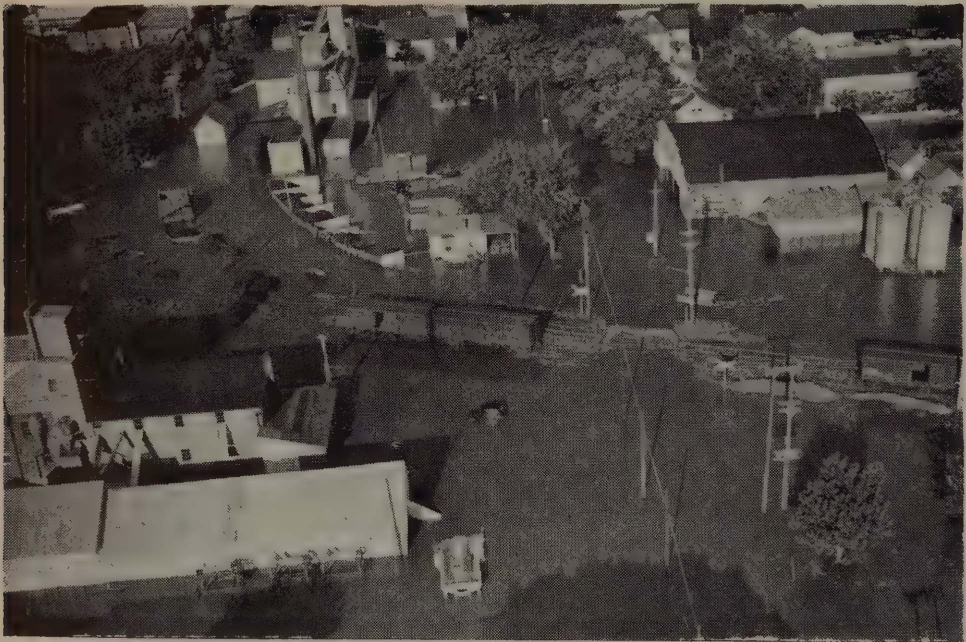
Cash Buyers
Poultry — Eggs — Cream — Hides
Complete Line of Feeds
Grant, Iowa **Phone 87A**



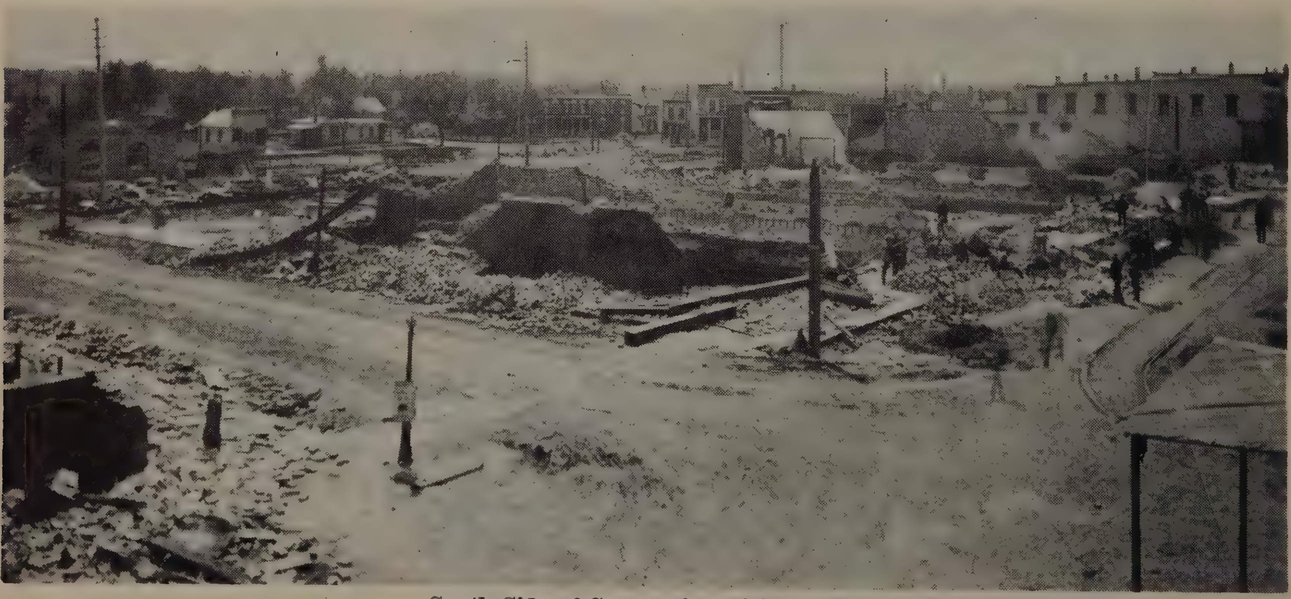
Pictured at the left is Mrs. Blanche Draper Brayton and Mrs. Nell Draper Northrup in the first auto in Red Oak. It was owned by their father, T. B. Draper.



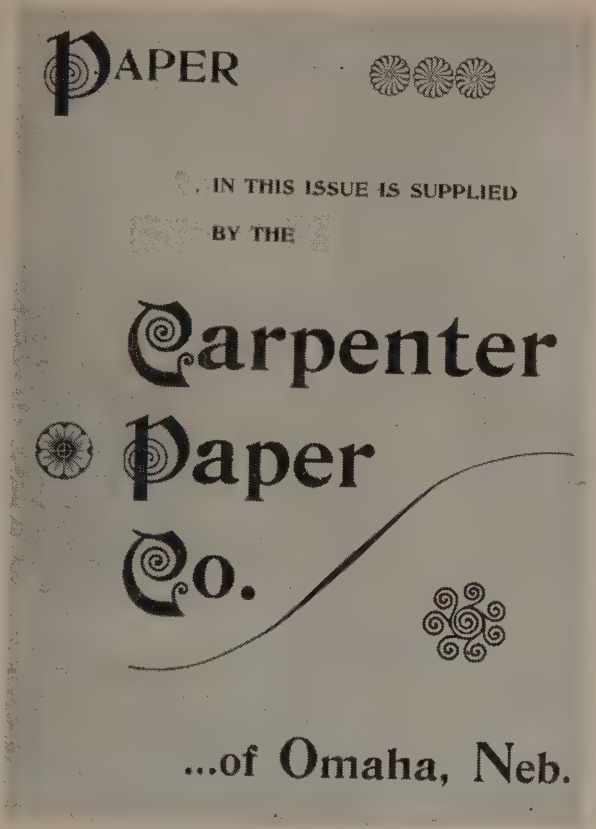
Pictured above is the Stanton Midget Baseball Team at the early part of the century. Front row: Clemens Ossian, Norman Mollenhoff, Wayne Bawmon, Elder Erickson. Second row: Reuben E. Swanson, Earl Mollenhoff, Glendon Boellert, Elder Rylander, Reuben Swanson.



RED OAK FLOOD, JUNE 1947



South Side of Square After Fire of 1902



PAPER

IN THIS ISSUE IS SUPPLIED
BY THE

Carpenter
Paper
Co.

...of Omaha, Neb.

BACK IN 1894...

. . . the Carpenter advertisement at the left appeared in the Historical Book of Montgomery County. Since that year, both the Carpenter Paper Company and Montgomery County have continued to prosper. Today Carpenter offers complete warehouse stocks of paper and paper products, from the Mississippi to the Pacific.

CARPENTER PAPER COMPANY

"A Dependable Source of Supply"

L. E. Crowe & Sons

Building Contractors

in—

Lumber

Roofing and Flooring (all types)

Concrete Blocks

Concrete Floors, Drives and Sidewalks

Linoleum and Plastic Wall-Tile

All Work Guaranteed

Dial 9342 **103 W. Joy St.**

Camp 671

ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA

Red Oak, Iowa

Charter Dated April 30, 1897
First Oracle—Nelle Trapnell Hibbard

Cooperates in Both
Local Civic Projects and National
Emergency Relief

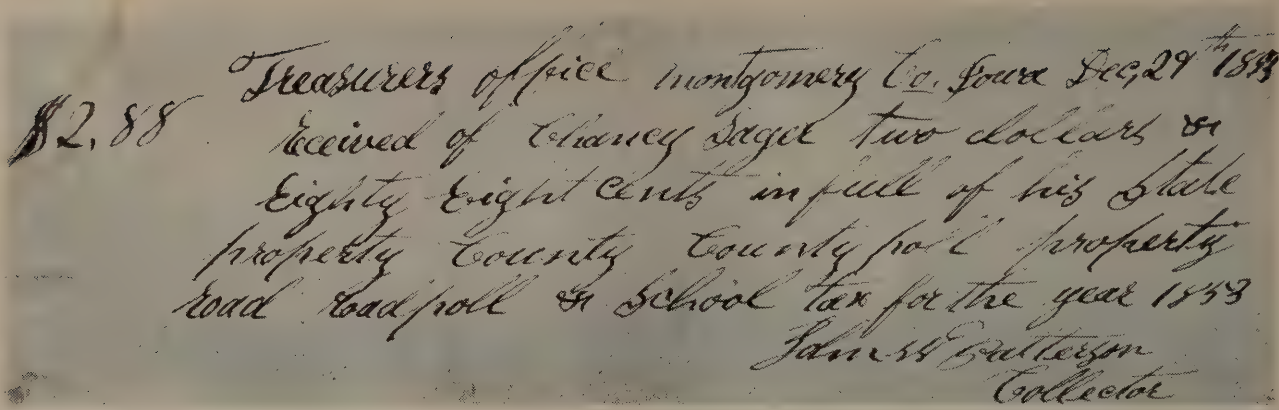
Present Membership—225

Annual Insurance $180,065.00

80 Persons Have Benefited

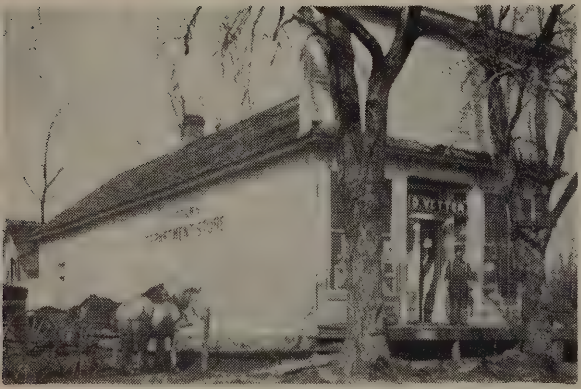
Present Officers

Hattie Phillips—Oracle
Dorothy Hatfield—Vice Oracle
Mary McCreary—Recorder
Lizzie Wyckoff—Receiver

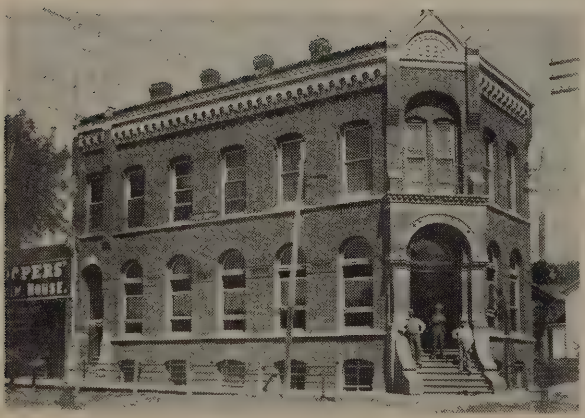


$2,88 Treasurers office Montgomery Co. Iowa Dec 29th 1853
Received of Chancy Sager two dollars &
Eighty Eight cents in full of his State
property County County poll property
road road poll & School tax for the year 1853
James H Patterson
Collector

The above receipt is one of the first given in Montgomery County from the Tax Collector. This is the property of Clyde E. Sager of Yamhill, Oregon who is the son of Chancy Sager. Chancy Sager came to this County in 1852. In 1854 he was appointed the county's first postmaster at Sciola. In 1874 he felt this country was becoming too densely populated so he pioneered further west and settled in Oregon.



D. Vetter's store, above, was a landmark in the town of Grant about 1895.



Pictured above is the First National Bank Building on upper Third Ave. in Villisca.

BOLT SHOE COMPANY

317 Reed St. Red Oak, Iowa

B.F.Goodrich
B.F.Goodrich
B.F.Goodrich

The

B. F. Goodrich

Store

Red Oak, Iowa

NATIONAL CARBON COMPANY

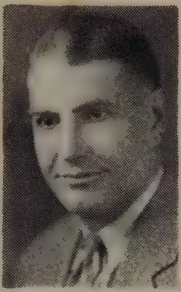
A Division of Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation

National Carbon Company Plant—Red Oak

We are pleased to extend our good wishes to all of the citizens of Montgomery County on this occasion of its Centennial Anniversary. We are proud to be a part of this splendid community, and to participate in the growth and development of Montgomery County.

Congratulations to Montgomery County

on its Centennial Anniversary


DAN LOOKER
Then—1923

Our 30th Anniversary

We are proud of the part we have played in the growth of Montgomery County during the last 30 years of its 100 years as a county.

We hope to humbly serve you for the next 30 or more years with the following services:

DAN LOOKER
Now—1953

Motor tune-up
Automotive electric service
Magnetos repaired & recharged
Speedometers repaired & calibrated
Generators & Starters repaired
Voltage Regulators repaired & set
Carburetors repaired & adjusted
Batteries recharged—6 or 12 volt, fast or slow process
Brake relining & adjusting
Brake drum grinding
Wheel balancing
Front end alignment
Tire service
Tire vulcanizing
Car washing
Car polishing by hand or machine
Motor rebuilding
General repairing
Texaco Service station
Alemite lubrication
Car keys made or duplicated

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From

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(1912 - 1953)
First Short Course in Iowa—1905
Fourth County to Organize an Agricultural Short Course
Home Project Work Organized in 1922
14 Girls 4-H Clubs Organized in 1922
First Corn 4-H Club Organized in 1917

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